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CHRISTIAN NON-RESISTANCE,

IN ALL ITS IMPORTANT BEARINGS,

ILLUSTRATED AND DEFENDED.

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PREFACE.

Here is a little book in illustration and defence of a very unpopular doctrine. The author believes it to be as ancient as Christianity, and as true as the New Testament. But it is a doctrine little understood, and almost everywhere spoken against. He therefore entreats his readers to divest themselves as much as possible of prejudice, and patiently examine what he has here written. He does not expect every one to be pleased with what he has presented in this volume, not even those who approve of it as a *whole*. But he desires friends and opposers to be candid, just and generous; to treat the work as they would have one of their own (on any important subject) treated. He wishes no personal strain of panegyric from those who may think well of his Treatise. Let all glory be given to the Supreme Source of wisdom and goodness. On the other hand, he hopes that those who may think ill of it will be manly enough not to condemn it merely on account of its authorship. Let it be approved or condemned solely on its own intrinsic merits or demerits.

It is soberly and frankly addressed to the reason, conscience and higher sentiments of mankind—not to their propensities and lower passions. May it be read and responded to accordingly. The honest inquirer will ask,—Is it in accordance with divine truth and righteousness? Search and see. Perhaps the controversial critic will look for its errors, fallacies, inconsistencies, and assailable points. If there are any such, let them be detected and exposed. This ought to be done; but let those who undertake it prove themselve workmen that need not be ashamed. Let them be sure that they understand the subject, that they understand precisely what is contended for in this work, and that they are competent to refute its fundamental positions by good and sufficient arguments. It is so plain, discriminating and unequivocal in the style of its statements and reasonings, that serious misapprehension or misrepresentation of its meaning will hardly be excusable.

It does not court controversy, but if subjected to it will be entitled to fair and honorable treatment.

It is a book for the FUTURE, rather than the PRESENT, and will be better appreciated by the public half a century hence than now. But a better *future* is even now dawning, and it is needed to help develope the coming age of love and peace. A great transition of the human mind has commenced, and the reign of military and penal violence must ultimately give place to that of forbearance, forgiveness and mercy. Such a work as this will meet a deep-felt want of many minds scattered up and down Christendom. So strongly was the author persuaded of this fact by various indications, that he felt impelled by a sense of duty to prepare this Manual as a supply for that want. Providentially the worthy friend, who assumes the pecuniary responsibility of its publication, generously came forward to facilitate the object, and thus by a concurrence of effort, it has made its appearance. It is now sent forth on its mission of reconciliation. The author feels a comfortable assurance that the blessing of the Most High God will accompany it wherever it goes, that it will diffuse light among many that sit in darkness, and promote in some humble degree that glorious regeneration of the world for which the good men of all ages have constantly prayed and hoped.

A. B.

Hopedale, Mass., April, 1846.

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CHRISTIAN NON-RESISTANCE.

CHAPTER I.

EXPLANATORY DEFINITIONS.

Different kinds of Non-Resistance—The term Non-Resistance—The term Force, etc.—The term injury, etc.—The term Christian Non-Resistance; its derivation—The key text of Non-Resistance—Necessary applications of Non-Resistance—What a Christian Non-Resistant cannot consistently do—The principle and sub-principle of Non-Resistance—The conclusion.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF NON-RESISTANCE.

What is Christian Non-Resistance? It is that original peculiar kind of non-resistance, which was enjoined and exemplified by Jesus Christ, according to the Scriptures of the New Testament. Are there other kinds of non-resistance? Yes. 1. Philosophical non-resistance of various hue, which sets at nought divine revelation, disregards the authority of Jesus Christ as a divine teacher, excludes all strictly religious considerations, and deduces its conclusions from the light of nature, the supposed fitness of things and the expediency of consequences. 2. Sentimental non-resistance, also of various hue; which

is held to be the spontaneous dictate of man's higher sentiments in the advanced stages of their development, *transcending* all special divine revelations, positive instructions, ratiocination and considerations of expediency. 3. Necessitous non-resistance, commonly expressed in the phrase, ☞ "*passive obedience and non-resistance*," imperiously preached by *despots* to their *subjects*, as their indispensable duty and highest virtue; also recommended by worldly prudence to the victims of oppression when unable to offer *successful* resistance to their injurers. With this last mentioned kind Christian non-resistance has nothing in common. With philosophical and sentimental non-resistance it holds *much* in common; being, in fact, the *divine original* of which they are human *adulterations*, and embracing all the *good* of *both* without the *evils* of *either*. This treatise is an illustration and defence of Christian non-resistance, properly so designated.

THE TERM NON-RESISTANCE.

The term non-resistance itself next demands attention. It requires very considerable qualifications. I use it as applicable *only* to the conduct of human beings towards human beings—not towards the inferior animals, inanimate things, or satanic influences. If an opponent, willing to make me appear ridiculous, should say—"You are a non-resistant, and therefore must be *passive* to all assailing beings, things and influences, to satan, man, beast, bird, serpent, insect, rocks, timbers, fires, floods, heat, cold and storm,"—I should answer, *not so*; my non-resistance relates solely to conduct between human beings. This is an important limitation of the term. But I go further, and disclaim using the term to

express *absolute passivity*, even towards *human* beings. I claim the right to offer the utmost *moral* resistance, not sinful, of which God has made me capable, to every manifestation of evil among mankind. Nay, I hold it my *duty* to offer such moral resistance. In this sense my very non-resistance becomes the highest kind of *resistance* to evil. This is another important qualification of the term. But I do not stop here. There is an unin. jurious, benevolent *physical* force. There are cases in which it would not only be allowable, but in the highest degree commendable, to *restrain* human beings by this kind of force. Thus, maniacs, the insane, the delirious sick, ill natured children, the intellectually or *morally* non-compos mentis, the intoxicated and the violently passionate, are frequently disposed to perpetrate outrages and inflict injuries, either on themselves or others, which ought to be kindly and uninjuriously prevented by the muscular energy of their friends. And in cases where deadly violence is inflicted with deliberation and malice aforethought, one may nobly throw his body as a temporary barrier between the destroyer and his helpless victim, choosing to die in that position, rather than be a passive spectator. Thus another most important qualification is given to the term non-resistance. It is not non-resistance to animals and inanimate things, nor to satan, but only to human beings. Nor is it *moral* non-resistance to human beings, but chiefiy physical. Nor is it physical non-resistance to all human beings, under all circumstances, but only so far as to abstain totally from the infliction of personal injury, as a means of resistance. It is simply non-resistance of injury with injury—evil with evil.

Will the opposer exclaim—"This is no non-resistance

at all; the term is mischosen!" I answer. So said the old opposers of the Temperance Reformation, respecting the term "*total abstinence.*" They began by insisting that the term *must* be taken unqualifiedly, and pronounced total abstinence an *absurdity.* It was replied—"we limit its application to the use of ardent spirits and intoxicating liquours." "Then you exclude these substances from the arts and from external applications, do you?" rejoined the opposers. "No," replied the advocates of the cause, "we mean *total abstinence* from the *internal* use—the *drinking* of those liquors." "But are they not sometimes necessary for medical purposes?" said the opposers, "and *then* may they not be taken internally?" "Certainly, with proper precautions," was the reply; "we mean by *total abstinence*, precisely *this* and no more, ☞ the entire disuse of all ardent spirits and intoxicating liquors, *as a beverage.*" "That," exclaimed the objectors, (despairing of a reductio ad absurdam,) "is *no total* abstinence *at all;* the term is mischosen!" Nevertheless, it was a most significant term. It had in it an almost talismanic power. It expressed better than any other just what was meant, and wrought a prodigious change in public opinion and practice. The term *non-resistance* is equally significant and talismanic. It signifies total abstinence from all resistance of injury with injury. It is thus far *non-resistance*—no farther.

The almost universal opinion and practice of mankind has been on the side of resistance of injury *with* injury. It has been held justifiable and *necessary*, for individuals and nations to inflict any amount of *injury* which would effectually resist a supposed greater injury. The consequence has been universal suspicion, defiance, armament, violence, torture and bloodshed. The earth has

been rendered a vast slaughter-field—a theatre of reciprocal cruelty and vengeance—strewn with human skulls, reeking with human blood, resounding with human groans, and steeped with human tears. Men have become drunk with mutual revenge; and they who could inflict the greatest amount of injury, in pretended defence of life, honor, rights, property, institutions and laws, have been idolized as the heroes and rightful sovereigns of the world. Non-resistance explodes this horrible delusion; announces the impossibility of overcoming evil with evil; and, making its appeal directly to all the *injured* of the human race, enjoins on them, in the name of God, never more to *resist injury with injury;* assuring them that by adhering to the law of love under all provocations, and scrupulously suffering wrong, rather than inflicting it, they shall gloriously "overcome evil with good," and exterminate all their enemies by turning them into faithful friends.

THE TERM FORCE, ETC.

Having thus qualified and defined the term non-resistance, it would seem proper to do the same with several others, frequently made use of in the discussion of our general subject. One of these terms is *force*. Non-resistants, like others, have been in the habit of using this, and similar terms too loosely; thereby giving needless occasion for misunderstanding, on the part of the uninformed, and misrepresentation on the part of interested opposers. The word *force*, is thus defined by Walker, "strength, vigor, might, violence, virtue, efficacy, validness, power of law, armament, warlike preparation, destiny, necessity, fatal compulsion." Now if we should use the word *force*, as the contrary of *non-resistance*, without

any qualification, the idea would be conveyed that *non-resistance* was identical with *absolute passivity*, and that it necessarily excluded all kinds and degrees of force, under all circumstances whatsoever. The generic meaning of the term force, is "strength, vigor, might," whether physical or moral. Thus we may speak of the force of love, the force of truth, the force of public opinion, the force of moral suasion, the force of non-resistance. Or we may speak of the force of gravitation, the force of cohesion, the force of repulsion, &c. Or in relation to the muscular force of human beings, we may speak of benevolent force, kind force, uninjurious force; meaning thereby various applications of muscular strength for the purpose of preventing human beings committing on themselves or others some injury; in which prevention no personal injury is inflicted, but real kindness and benefit done to all parties concerned. As non-resistance is not identical with *absolute passivity*, but allows, implies and requires various kinds and degrees of moral and physical "strength," according to circumstances, the term *force* must not be used as its *converse;* unless it be with such qualifications, or in such a connection, as will give it some one of its conventional significations, so that it shall mean *violence, warlike force, positive vengeance, destructive force*—in fine, INJURIOUS FORCE. *Injurious* force of all kinds and degrees, between human beings, is incompatible with *non-resistance*. Such are the qualifications with which the term *force* will be used in this work.

The term *moral force* will be understood from the preceding remarks, as synonymous with *moral power*—the effective influence of moral "strength, vigor, might." *Physical* force, as distinguished from *moral* force, is a

term used to express the idea of *material* force, the action of one *body* on another, compelling the weaker to yield to the stronger by mere animal strength or mechanical power. As *moral force* may be either good or evil, injurious or uninjurious, according to its kind, its object, its spirit, or its manner of application; so may *physical force* be good or evil, injurious or uninjurious, according to the same considerations. When a licentious man corrupts the mind of an innocent youth by bad examples, bad counsel, bad maxims, and other evil influences, in which there is no physical force, he exerts a most *injurious moral force.* He demoralizes the principles and habits of one, whom he ought to encourage and confirm in virtue. When a good man converts a sinner from the error of his ways, by good examples, counsels, maxims and other purifying influences, he exerts a most *beneficent* and *salutary moral* force. So when a man by physical force destroys or impairs the life, intellect, moral sentiment, or absolute welfare of a human being, he uses an *injurious* physical force. But in restraining a madman from outrage, or holding a delirious sick person on the bed, or compelling an ill-natured child to desist from tearing out the hair of a weaker brother, or interposing his body and muscular strength to prevent rape, or any similar act, wherein he does no one a real injury, while he renders to some or all the parties concerned a real *benefit*, he uses a rightful *uninjurious* physical force.

THE TERM INJURY.

I use this term in a somewhat peculiar sense, to signify any moral influence or physical force exerted by one human being upon another, the legitimate *effect* of which

is to destroy or impair *life*, to destroy or impair the *physical faculties*, to destroy or impair the *intellectual powers*, to destroy, impair or pervert the *moral and religious sentiment*, or to destroy or impair the *absolute welfare*, all things considered, of the person on whom such influence or force is exerted; whether that person be innocent or guilty, harmless or offensive, injurious or uninjurious, sane or insane, compos mentis or non-compos, adult or infant. Some of the lexicographers define an "*injury*" to be "hurt, harm or mischief, *unjustly* done to a person;" thereby implying that any hurt, harm or mischief done to one who *deserves* nothing better, or can be considered as justly liable to it, *is no injury at all.* I reject entirely every such qualification of the term. I hold an *injury* to be an *injury*, whether *deserved* or *undeserved*, whether intended or unintended, whether well meant or ill meant, determining the fact in accordance with the foregoing definition. But, says the inquirer—"what if it can be proved justifiable, by the law of God, to inflict personal injury in certain cases on the offensive and guilty?" Then, of course, it will be proved that non-resistance is a false doctrine. "What if it can be proved that the infliction of small injuries may prevent much greater evils?" Then it will be proved that we may do evil that good may come, which will forever keep the world just where it is. "What if it can be shown that the person who inflicts an injury honestly intended it for a benefit?" That will only prove him *honestly mistaken*, and so undeserving of blame. "What if a man inflicts death or any other injury, according to established human laws, but does it without malice, or revenge, or any malevolent intent?" Then he does an *anti-christian* act, without conscience as to its real nature.

The act must be condemned; he must be credited for his motives; due allowance must be made for his misapprehension of duty; and light poured into his mind to superinduce a better conscience, that he may be brought to act the Christian part. But in no case must we lose sight of the inquiry, whether an *injury* has been done. And in determining this, we must not ask whether the recipient were guilty or innocent, whether the thing done were well or ill intended, whether it were done in a right or a wrong spirit. If it be in fact an *injury*, it is contrary to the doctrine of Christian non-resistance; and no person knowing it to be such can repeat it under any pretext whatsoever, without violating the law of God. This is the sense and signification of the terms *injury*, *injurer*, *injurious*, &c., as used in these pages. The objector may here interpose critical queries, with a view to test the soundness of my definition. He may suppose that a man's leg, hand, or eye, is so diseased as to require amputation, in order to save his life. But such member is one of his physical faculties, which must not be destroyed or impaired, because that would be an *injury*. I answer. The diseased member is already lost. The question is not whether the friendly surgeon shall destroy or impair it; but only whether he shall amputate it, in order to preserve the life and remaining faculties. No *injury*, but an absolute *benefit* is proposed. This case is clear. But suppose the minister of the *law* is ordered to amputate a sound leg, hand or eye, as a punishment, or for an example to deter others from the commission of crime. This is absolute *injury*, done under good pretexts indeed, but on that account none the less an *injury*. Again; a child dangerously sick requires some medical application, very disagreeable, yet indis-

pensable to his recovery, which can only be applied by physical force. Or an insane adult is in the same circumstances. Or a person infected with hydrophobia, and subject to terrible paroxysms of the disease, needs to be confined; and yet for want of judgment, even in his intervals, refuses to be. Or a man subject to violent impulses of propensity or passion, rendering him dangerous to all around him when excited, needs to be excluded from general society, or otherwise watched and restrained by keepers, in order to prevent serious mischief to others; and yet he resents and resists all entreaties to submit to such restriction. Or a wicked man is exceedingly alarmed, disturbed and offended by a truthful exposure of his iniquitous proceedings, or by the faithful remonstrances and rebukes of some good man. Now in all such cases the *will* must be crossed, the personal freedom abridged, and the feelings pained. Must it not be an *injury* to coerce, restrain, expose and reprove such persons, however necessary to their and the public good, and however kindly executed? Is it not generally more intolerable to be *crossed* in one's *will*, and wounded in one's *feelings*, than to be beaten, maimed and otherwise maltreated? Answer. It is not man's imaginations, thoughts and feelings, that determine what *is*, or *is not injurious* to him. Love itself may "heap coals of fire on a man's head." Truth may torment his mind. The most benevolent restraint may be painful to his feelings. He may be made, for a while, quite unhappy by crossing his evil will. He may prefer to be smitten and mutilated, rather than be exposed in his secret iniquities, or endure the faithful reproof of the upright. Such persons often prefer an *injury* to a benefit. They are not, for the time being, in a state of mind to

understand and choose what is best for them. Therefore their wills, feelings and opinions are not the indices of their own *good*—much less that of others. Is it *good* for a capricious obstinate child to be indulged in opposing a necessary medical application? Is it *good* for an insane or delirious sick adult to have his own *will*, even to the commission of murder and self-destruction? Is it *good* for a man to have unlimited freedom, when he will almost certainly make it a curse to himself and others, by gross involuntary outrage, or uncontrollable passion? Is it *good* for a wicked man, under specious hypocritical disguises, to perpetrate the most atrocious mischief, unexposed and unreproved? These things are not good for mankind. On the contrary, it is good for them to be crossed, restrained, coerced and reproved, by all uninjurious moral and physical forces, which benevolence prompts and wisdom dictates. To cross their wills, and pain their feelings, by such means, under such circumstances, is not an *injury*, but a substantial *good*, to them and all who are connected with them. It may be said—"these things cannot be done *uninjuriously*. It would be impracticable." Cannot unreasonable children be nursed, delirious adults controlled, dangerously distempered people prevented from doing themselves and others harm, outrageous non-compos persons restrained, hypocrites exposed, and sinners reproved without *inflicting injury* on them! Then can nothing good be done without doing evil. Imperfection is indeed incidental to all human judgment and conduct; and therefore it is probable that some mistakes and some accidental injuries might happen. But the reason and common sense of mankind, once fairly pledged to the true principle of action, would seldom fail to discharge all these

duties to general satisfaction. Still it may be asked: "What is to be done if uninjurious force should prove inadequate? May life be sacrificed, limbs broken, the flesh mangled, or any other injuries allowed in extreme cases?" Never. The principle of *non-injury* must be held inviolable. It is worth worlds, and must be preserved at all hazards. What cannot be done uninjuriously must be left undone. But these extreme cases are mostly imaginary. The truth is, that what cannot be done uninjuriously can scarcely ever be done at all. Or if done, had better have been let alone. Experience in the case of the insane has already proved that incomparably more can be done by *uninjurious* forces, scrupulously and judiciously employed, than by any admixtures of the injurious element. Presuming that my definition and use of the terms *injure*, *injury*, *injurer*, *injurious*, &c., cannot be misunderstood, I pass on.

THE TERM CHRISTIAN NON-RESISTANCE.

Whence originated the term *Christian non-resistance*? Non-resistance comes from the injunction, "*resist not evil*," Matt. 5: 39. The words "*resist not*," being changed from the form of a *verb* to that of a substantive, give us *non-resistance*. This term is considered more strikingly significant than any other, of the *principle* involved, and the *duty* enjoined in our Saviour's precept. Hence its adoption and established use. It is denominated *Christian* non-resistance, to distinguish it, as the genuine primitive doctrine, from mere *philosophical*, *sentimental* and *necessitous* non-resistance. Literally, then, *Christian non-resistance* is the original non-resistance taught and exemplified by Jesus Christ; the bearings, limitations and applications of which are to be learned

from the Scriptures of the New Testament. And what are those bearings, limitations and applications? I have already given an imperfect view of them in the previous definitions. But I will be more explicit. What I aim at is to carry the obligations of non-resistance just as far and no farther than Jesus Christ has. It is easy to go beyond, or to fall short of his limits. Ultra radicals go beyond him. Ultra conservatives fall short of him. Even those of both these classes, who profess to abide implicitly by his teachings, construe and interpret his language so as to favor their respective errors. The ultra radicals seize on strong figurative, hyperbolic, or *intensive* forms of expression, and make him *seem* to mean *much more* than he *could have intended*. The ultra conservatives ingeniously fritter away and nullify the very essence of his precepts, in such a manner as to make him *seem* to mean *much less* than he *must have intended*. There is, however, a general rule for such cases, which can scarcely fail to expose the errors of both classes, in respect to any given text. It is this: "Consider the context; consider parallel texts; consider examples; consider the known spirit of Christianity." Any construction or interpretation of the recorded language of Christ, or of his apostles, in which all *these concur*, is sound. Any other is probably erroneous.

THE KEY TEXT OF NON-RESISTANCE.

Now let us examine Matt. 5: 39. "I say unto you, resist not evil," &c. This single text, from which, as has been stated, the term non-resistance took its rise, if justly construed, furnishes a complete key to the true bearings, limitations and applications of the doctrine under discussion. This is precisely one of those pre-

cepts which may be easily made to mean *much more*, or *much less*, than its author intended. It is in the *intensive*, condensed form of expression, and can be understood only by a due regard to its context. What did the divine teacher mean by the word "*evil*," and what by the word "*resist?*" There are several kinds of *evil*. 1. Pain, loss, damage, suffered from causes involving no moral agency, or *natural evil*. 2. Sin in general, or *moral evil*. 3. Temptations to sin, or *spiritual evil;* and 4. Personal wrong, insult, outrage, injury—or *personal evil*. Which of these kinds of evil does the context show to have been in our Saviour's mind when he said, "*resist not evil?*" Was he speaking of fires, floods, famine, disease, serpents, wild beasts, or any other mere *natural evil agents?* No. Then of course he does not prohibit our resisting *such evil*. Was he speaking of sin in general? No. Then of course he does not prohibit our resisting *such evil* by suitable means. Was he speaking of temptations addressed to our propensities and passions, enticing us to commit sin? No. Then of course he does not prohibit our resisting the *devil*, withstanding the *evil* suggestions of our own carnal mind, and suppressing our *evil* lusts. Was he speaking of *personal evil*, injury personally inflicted by man on man? Yes. "Ye have heard that it hath been said, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth; but I say unto you that ye resist not evil," i. e. personal outrage, insult, affront—*injury*. The word "*evil*" necessarily means, in this connection, *personal injury*, or evil inflicted by human beings on human beings.

But what did Jesus mean by the words "*resist not?*" There are various kinds of *resistance*, which may be offered to personal injury, when threatened or actually

inflicted. There is *passive* resistance—a dead silence, a sullen inertia, a complete muscular helplessness—an utter refusal to speak or move. Does the context show that Jesus contemplated, pro or con, any such resistance in his prohibition? No. There is an active righteous moral resistance—a meek firm remonstrance, rebuke, reproof, protestation. Does the connection show that Jesus prohibits this kind of resistance? No. There is an active, firm, compound, moral and physical resistance, *uninjurious* to the evil doer, and only calculated to restrain him from deadly violence or extreme outrage. Was Jesus contemplating such modes of resisting personal injury? Does the context show that he intended to prohibit all resistance of evil by such means? No. There is a determined resistance of *personal injury* by means of *injury inflicted;* as when a man deliberately takes life to save life, destroys an assailant's eye to save an eye, inflicts a violent blow to prevent a blow; or, as when, in retaliation, he takes life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, &c.; or, as when, by means of governmental agencies, he causes an injurious person to be punished by the infliction of some injury equivalent to the one he has inflicted or attempted. It was of such resistance as this, that our Saviour was speaking. It is such resistance as this, that he prohibits. His obvious doctrine is: ☞*Resist not personal injury with personal injury.* I shall have occasion to press this point more conclusively in the next chapter, when presenting my Scriptural proofs. Enough has been said to determine the important bearings and limitations of the general doctrine. It bears on all mankind, in every social relation of life. It contemplates men as actually injured, or in imminent danger of being injured by their fellow

men; and commands them to abstain from all personal injuries, either as a means of retaliation, self defence, or suppression of injury. If smitten on the one cheek, they must submit the other to outrage, rather than smite back. If the life of their dearest friend has been taken, or an eye or a tooth thrust out, or any other wrong been done to themselves or their fellow men, they must not render evil for evil, or railing for railing, or hatred for hatred. But they are not prohibited from resisting, opposing, preventing, or counteracting the injuries inflicted, attempted or threatened by man on man, in the use of any *absolutely uninjurious* forces, whether moral or physical. On the contrary, it is their bounden duty, by all such benevolent resistances, to promote the safety and welfare, the holiness and happiness of all human beings, as opportunity may offer.

NECESSARY APPLICATIONS OF NON-RESISTANCE.

The necessary applications of the doctrine, are to all cases in human intercourse where man receives aggressive injury from man, or is presumed to be in imminent danger of receiving it; i. e., to all cases wherein the injury of man upon man, is either to be *repelled, punished* or *prevented.* There are four general positions in which human beings may stand to resist injury with injury. 1. As individuals; 2. As a lawless combination of individuals; 3. As members of allowable voluntary associations; and 4. As constitutent supporters of human government in its State or National sovereignty. Standing in either of these positions, they can resist injury with injury, either in immediate self-defence, in retaliation or by vindictive punishments. As individuals they may act immediately by their own personal energies, or they

may act through their agents—persons employed to execute their will. Connected with a lawless combination, they may act directly in open co-operative violence, or clandestinely, or through select agents, or in a more general manner through their acknowledged leaders. As members of allowable voluntary associations, they may exert a powerful influence, without any deeds of violence, by means of speech, the press, education, religion, &c., to delude, corrupt, prejudice and instigate to evil the minds of mankind one toward another. Thus designedly to stimulate, predispose and lead men to commit personal injury, under pretence of serving God and humanity, is essentially the same thing as directly resisting injury with injury by physical means. The mischief may be much greater, the moral responsibility certainly no less. As constituent supporters of human government, (whether civil or military, or a compound of *both*,) in its state or national sovereignty, men are morally responsible for all constitutions, institutions, laws, processes, and usages, which they have pledged themselves to support, or which they avowedly approve, or which they depend upon as instrumentalities for securing and promoting their personal welfare, or in which they acquiesce without positive remonstrance and disfellowship. Thus if a political compact, a civil or military league, covenant or constitution, requires, authorizes, provides for or tolerates war, bloodshed, capital punishment, slavery, or any kind of *absolute injury*, offensive or defensive, the man who swears, affirms or otherwise pledges himself, to support such a compact, league, covenant or constitution, is just as responsible for every act of injury done in strict conformity thereto, as if he himself personally committed it. He is not responsible for *abuses* and *violations* of the

constitution. But for all that is constitutionally done he *is* responsible. The army is *his* army, the navy *his* navy, the militia *his* militia, the gallows *his* gallows, the pillory *his* pillory, the whipping post *his* whipping post, the branding iron *his* branding iron, the prison *his* prison, the dungeon *his* dungeon, and the slaveholding *his* slaveholding. When the constitutional majority declare war, it is *his* war. All the slaughter, rapine, ravages, robbery, destruction and mischief committed under that declaration, in accordance with the laws of war, are *his*. Nor can he exculpate himself by pleading that he was one of a strenuous *anti-war minority* in the government. He was *in* the government. He had sworn, affirmed or otherwise pledged himself, that the majority should have discretionary power to declare war. He tied up his hands with that anti-Christian obligation, to stand by the majority in all the crimes and abominations inseparable from war. It is therefore *his* war, its murders are *his* murders, its horrible injuries on humanity are *his* injuries. They are all committed with *his* solemn sanction. There is no escape from this terrible moral responsibility but by a conscientious withdrawal from such government, and an uncompromising protest against so much of its fundamental creed and constitutional law, as is decidedly *anti-Christian*. He must cease to be its pledged supporter, and approving dependent.

WHAT A CHRISTIAN NON-RESISTANT CANNOT CONSISTENTLY DO.

It will appear from the foregoing exposition, that a true Christian non-resistant *cannot*, with deliberate intent, knowledge or conscious voluntariness, compromit his principles by either of the following acts.

1. He cannot kill, maim or otherwise *absolutely injure* any human being, in personal self-defence, or for the sake of his family, or any thing he holds dear.

2. He cannot participate in any lawless conspiracy, mob, riotous assembly, or disorderly combination of individuals, to cause or countenance the commission of any such absolute personal injury.

3. He cannot be a member of any voluntary association, however orderly, respectable or allowable by law and general consent, *which declaratively* holds as *fundamental truth*, or claims as an essential right, or distinctly inculcates as sound doctrine, or approves as commendable in practice, *war*, *capital* punishment, or any other absolute personal injury.

4. He cannot be an *officer* or *private*, chaplain or retainer, in the army, navy or militia of any nation, state, or chieftain.

5. He cannot be an officer, elector, agent, legal prosecutor, passive constituent, or approver of any government, as a sworn or otherwise pledged supporter thereof, whose civil constitution and fundamental laws, require, authorize or tolerate war, slavery, capital punishment, or the infliction of any absolute personal injury.

6. He cannot be a member of any chartered corporation, or body politic, whose articles of compact oblige or authorize its official functionaries to resort for compulsory aid, in the conducting of its affairs, to a government of constitutional violence.

7. Finally, he cannot do any act, either in person or by proxy; nor abet or encourage any act in others; nor demand, petition for, request, advise or approve the doing of any act, by an individual, association or government, *which* act would inflict, *threaten* to inflict, or *necessarily*

cause to *be* inflicted *any absolute personal injury*, as herein before defined.

Such are the necessary bearings, limitations and applications of the doctrine of Christian non-resistance. Let the reader be careful not to misunderstand the positions laid down. The platform of principle and action has been carefully founded, and its essential peculiarities plainly delineated. Let it not be said that the doctrine goes against all religion, government, social organization, constitutions, laws, order, rules and regulations. It goes against none of these things, *per se*. It goes for them, in the highest and best sense. It goes only against *such* religion, government, social organization, constitutions, laws, order, rules, regulations and restraints, as are unequivocally contrary to the law of Christ; as sanction taking "life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth;" as are based on the assumption, that it is *right* to resist *injury with injury, evil with evil.*

THE PRINCIPLE AND SUB-PRINCIPLE OF NON-RESISTANCE.

This chapter may be profitably concluded with a brief consideration of the doctrine under discussion, with respect to the *principle* from which it proceeds, to the *sub-principle* which is its immediate moral basis, and to the rule of duty in which all its applications are comprehended. What is the principle from which it proceeds? It is a principle from the inmost bosom of God. It proceeds from ALL PERFECT LOVE, that absolute, independent, unerringly wise, holy *love*, which distinguishes the *Divine* from all *inferior* natures, and which, transfused into the natural sentiment of human benevolence, superinduces the highest order of goodness. Of this it is said—"Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; therefore love is

the fulfilling of the law." Or as the amiable John expressed it—"He that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him." This love is not mere natural affection, nor sentimental passion, but a pure, enlightened, conscientious *principle*. It is a *divine spring* of *action*, which intuitively and spontaneously dictates the doing of good to others, whether *they* do good or evil. It operates independently of external influences, and being in its nature absolutely *un*selfish, is not affected by the merit or demerit of its objects. It does not inquire "am I loved? have I been benefitted? have my merits been appreciated? shall I be blessed in return? Or am I hated, injured, cursed and contemned?" Whether others love or hate, bless or curse, benefit or injure, it says, "I will do right; I will love still; I will bless; I will never injure even the most *injurious;* I will overcome evil with good." Therefore its goodness is not measured by or adjusted to the goodness of others, but ever finds in itself a sufficient reason for doing good and nothing but good to all moral agents. Jesus, in whom flowed the full current of this divine love, the sublime efflux of the heavenly nature, laying hold of the great commandment, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," drew it forth from the ark of the Mosaic Testament, all mildewed and dusky with human misapprehension, and struck from it the celestial fire. The true principle was in it, but men could not clearly perceive it, much less appreciate its excellency. He showed that the "*neighbor*" intended was any human being, a stranger, an enemy, a bitter foe—any one needing relief, or in danger of suffering through our selfishness, anger or contempt—the greatest criminal, the veriest wretch of our race. Hence, knowing that the entire wisdom of this world had justified injury to inju-

rers, hatred to enemies, and destruction to destroyers, he reversed the ancient maxims, abrogated the law of retaliation, and proclaimed the duty of unlimited forbearance, mercy and kindness. Imperfect religion, worldly minded philosophy, and vindictive selfishness had concurrently declared ☞ "*there is a point beyond which forbearance ceases to be a virtue.*" He swept away this heartless delusion with a divine breath, and sublimely taught obedient and everlasting adherence to the law of love, as well toward offenders, injurers and enemies, as toward benefactors, lovers and friends. *I say unto you take not life for life, eye for eye,* and tooth for tooth. Smite not the smiter to save thine own cheek. Give to him that asketh, and turn not the borrower away. Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father in Heaven. For he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love, and salute, and do good to them that love you, what are ye better than the publicans? *Be like your Father in Heaven.* Such is the true light radiated from the bosom of the Infinite Father, and reflected on this benighted world from the face of Jesus Christ. What are the puerile sentimentalisms of effeminate poets, or the gossamer elaborations of the world's philosophers, or the incantations of solemn but vindictive religionists, compared with the divine excellency of Truth, as it distilled in the language of the Messiah!

All-perfect, independent, self-sustaining, unswervable love—DIVINE LOVE—is the principle from which Christian non-resistance proceeds. What is the sub-principle which constitutes its immediate moral basis? The essential effi-

cacy of *good*, as the counteracting force with which to resist evil. The wisdom of this world has relied on the efficacy of *injury*, *terror*, EVIL, to resist evil. It has trusted in this during all past time. It has educated the human race to believe that their welfare and security depended mainly on their power to inflict injury on offenders. Hence it has been their constant endeavor to possess a sufficiency of injurious means to overawe their enemies, and terrify their encroaching fellow-men. Their language has been, "keep your distance; touch not my property; insult not my honor; infringe not my rights; assail not my person; be just and respectful; yield to my convenience, and be my friend; or, I will let slip the dogs of war; you shall feel the weight of my vengeance; I will inflict unendurable injuries on you; death itself, torture, imprisonment in a loathsome dungeon, pains and penalties, shall be your portion. I will do you incomparably *greater evil*, than you can me. Therefore be afraid, and let me alone." And so perfectly befooled are the children of this world, with *faith* in *injury* as their chief ultimate security, that scarcely one in a thousand will at first thought allow the non-resistance doctrine to be any thing better than a proclamation of cowardice on one side, and universal anarchy, lawlessness and violence on the other. As if all mankind were so entirely controlled by the dread of *deadly*, or at least, tremendous personal *injury*, that if this were relinquished a man's throat would be instantly cut, his family assassinated, or some other horrible mischief inflicted. Very few know how entirely they trust for defence and security in this grim and *bloody god* of *human injury*. They have enshrined him in the sword, the gibbet and the dungeon. They worship him in armies, navies, militia organizations, battle-ships, forts,

arsenals, penal statutes, judicial inflictions, pistols, daggers and bowie knives. And if we propose to lay all these evils aside, and go for nothing but uninjurious beneficent treatment of mankind, never transcending, even with the most outrageous, the limits of firm but friendly personal restraint, lo, they cry out with alarm, "*these have come hither that turn the world upside down!*" "*Torment us not before the time!*" "*Great is Diana of the Ephesians!*" Great is the *sword*, the *halter*, the salutary power to *kill* or *injure* sinners *at discretion!* What *would become* of human society, if war, capital, and other injurious punishments should be abolished!" On this altar they have sacrificed human beings enough to people twenty such planets as the earth, with no other success than to confirm and systematize violence throughout the whole habitable globe. And yet INJURY is their god, and at his gory altar of revenge and cruelty they are resolved for ever to worship, amid the clangor of deadly weapons, and the groans of a bleeding world.

THE CONCLUSION.

But the Son of the Highest, the great self-sacrificing Non-Resistant, is our prophet, priest and king. Though the maddened inhabitants of the earth have so long turned a deaf ear to his voice, he shall yet be heard. He declares that *good* is the only antagonist of *evil*, which can conquer the deadly foe. Therefore he enjoins on his disciples the duty of resisting *evil only* with *good*. This is the sub-principle of Christian non-resistance. ☞ "Evil can be overcome only with *good*." Faith, then, in the inherent superiority of *good* over *evil*, truth over error, right over wrong, love over hatred, is the immediate moral basis of our doctrine. Accordingly

we transfer all the faith we have been taught to cherish in *injury*, to *beneficence*, *kindness*, and *uninjurious treatment*, as the only all-sufficient enginery of war against *evil doers*. No longer seeking or expecting to put down evil with evil, we lift up the cross for an ensign, and surmounting it with the glorious banner of love, exult in the divine motto displayed on its immaculate folds, "RESIST NOT INJURY WITH INJURY." Let this in all future time be the specific rule of our conduct, the magnetic needle of our pathway across the troubled waters of human reform, till all men, all governments and all social institutions shall have been moulded into moral harmony with the grand comprehensive commandment of the living God"—"THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF." Then shall *Love* (God by his sublimest name) "be all in all."

The earth, so long a slaughter-field,
Shall yet an Eden bloom;
The *tiger* to the *lamb* shall yield,
And *War* descend the tomb:
For all shall feel the Saviour's love,
Reflected from the cross—
That love, that non-resistant love,
Which triumphed on the cross.

CHAPTER II.

SCRIPTURAL PROOFS.

Matt. 5: 38—41, a proof text—Evasive constructions of the text. Reason for noticing these evasions—Second proof, Matt. 5: 43—48—Third proof, forgiveness—Further important proofs—Apostolic testimonies—General view of the evidence—The primitive Christians—Testimony of Celsus and Gibbons.

The preceding chapter presents a clear statement and thorough explication of the doctrine of Christian non-resistance. *This* will present the Scriptural proofs of its truth. It is affirmed to have been taught and exemplified by Jesus Christ. If this can be demonstrated, all who acknowledge Him their Lord and Master will feel bound to receive the doctrine as *divine*. In determining such a question, the New Testament must be our principal text book. From its records, fairly construed, we are to learn what Jesus Christ taught, what his examples were, and what is the essential spirit of his religion. The evangelists and apostles shall be our witnesses in the case.

MATTHEW, 5: 38—41, A PROOF TEXT.

In Matthew's report of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus thus speaks:—"Ye have heard that it hath been said, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you, that ye resist not evil; but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." Matt. 5: 38—41. What is the exact meaning of this language, and what does it teach? To whom does Jesus refer as having said, "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth"? To Moses and his expounders. Read the following passages. Speaking of injury done to a woman in pregnancy:—"And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe." Ex. 21: 23—25. "If a man cause a blemish in his neighbor; as he hath done, so shall it be done to him; breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him." Lev. 24: 19, 20. In the case of a false witness: "And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother; then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you. And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, foot for foot." Deut. 19: 18—21. Here we have a comprehensive view of all the personal injuries authorized to be inflicted on injurers under the Mosaic code, from capital punishment down to the infliction of a stripe. And we have a strong expression of the design of those inflictions: "So shalt thou put the evil away from among you." Now did Jesus refer to these precepts of Moses, and to the enforcement of them? Who can doubt it? And if so, did he intend to confirm, or to abrogate them? Certainly to abrogate them. For his words express positive oppo-

sition of sense:—"BUT I say unto you, that ye resist not evil." *How?* As they do who take "life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth," &c. "But whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." Instead of smiting back and giving wound for wound, or going to the magistrate to get thy assailant punished, as the olden sayings authorize, endure to be smitten again and again. If under colour of the law thy coat be taken from thee, withhold not thy cloak. Sue not back to recover thy spoiled goods. If men force thee to go whither they will, become their prisoner without turbulence. ☞Resist not injury with injury. Inflict not evil in opposing evil. It hath been so commanded in time past, as a means of suppressing and preventing evil among men; "but I say unto you, that ye resist not evil doing with inflictions of evil." Nothing can be plainer, than that, so far as Moses and his expounders enjoined the infliction of penal personal injuries in resistance of injuries, and for the suppression of evil doing, Jesus Christ *prohibits* the same. He enjoins his disciples never to resist evil with such inflictions. They are forbidden to render evil for evil, either directly as individuals, on their own responsibility, or as *prosecutors at law*. Is this a just and unobjectionable construction of the Saviour's language? If it is, the doctrine of Non-Resistance is already established, by a single quotation. But this will be contested.

EVASIVE CONSTRUCTIONS OF THE TEXT.

It will be said that the words of Christ, in the passage quoted, are extremely figurative and intensive in their form of expression; that there is danger of taking them too literally; and that they must be duly qualified. I

grant it, and have construed them accordingly. I ascertained first their reference to the sayings of Moses, and then determined the prohibition to be exactly commensurate with the Mosaic requirement. *That* resistance of evil which Moses sanctioned and enjoined Jesus obviously repudiates and forbids. The prohibition is made precisely coextensive in all its bearings with the allowances and injunctions of the Olden Code. This is the only fair construction which can be given to the great Teacher's language. Should any one affirm that Jesus prohibits all kinds and degrees of resistance to evil, he could sustain his affirmation only by insisting on the *literal* expression, and would make the Saviour contradict himself, his own example, and the common sense of mankind. Should any one affirm, on the other hand, that Jesus did not intend to abrogate and prohibit all the personal and judicial inflictions of evil on offenders, authorized by the fore-cited sayings of Moses, he would find himself in an equally perplexing dilemma. I have seen distinguished opposers in this latter dilemma.

EVASION FIRST.

One says, "I doubt if Jesus referred to the sayings of Moses, quoted from Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy. He must have referred to certain perverse Rabbinical glosses on the precepts of the law, and to common sayings among the people pleaded in justification of frequent and extreme revenge." Is there any proof of this? No; it is mere supposition. But if it were true, why did not Jesus *give* some intimation that he was prohibiting only *abuses!* And withal, what *glosses* or common sayings could go beyond the original sayings themselves? They express the *lex talionis* in its fullest ex-

tent; ☞ "life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, breach for breach, wound for wound, stripe for stripe." It would be hard glossing, or overstraining such sayings. This plea is futile.

EVASION SECOND.

Another insists that Christ was only inculcating the importance of executing legal penalties, and of using lawful inflictions of injury against assailants, in a *right spirit*. "He does not prohibit the *act*, but only a vindictive, revengeful *spirit* in performing it. Life ought to be taken for life, and various evils inflicted on evil doers, as a just punishment; and self-defence ought to be maintained, even to the infliction of death in extreme cases; but all should be done without *revenge*, without unnecessary cruelty, and in *pure love* to the offender, as well as with a sacred reverence for the law." In this way Jesus is smoothly construed to have really said nothing at all,—practically nothing that Moses and the ancients had not said. Did they authorize *personal* hate, malice, revenge and wanton cruelty in executing the penalties of the law? Did they not positively prohibit all such feelings and conduct? "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people." "Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thy heart: thou shalt in anywise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him." "In righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbor." Lev. 19th chap. "If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that the judges may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked. And it shall be, if the wicked man be worthy to be beaten, that the judge shall cause him to lie down, and to be beaten before his

face, according to his fault, by a certain number. Forty stripes he may give him, and not exceed: lest if he should exceed, and beat him above these with many stripes, then thy brother should seem vile unto thee." Deut. 25: 1—3. See Deut. 16: 18, 20; 17: 2—12; 19: 15. Ex. 23: 1—8. From these and other passages in the writings of Moses, it will be seen that, notwithstanding the severity of his code, he did not authorize individual hatred, revenge and wanton cruelty in punishing the wicked. To make Christ prohibit *only* a personal, spiteful, malicious, cruel spirit in executing the authorized punishments of the law, is to make him the mere *echo* of Moses and his expounders; whereas he goes absolutely against the *deed*—the *act* of inflicting evil on the persons of offenders. And by killing the *body* of the thing, he banishes the *spirit* of it. Seeming *love*, only renders the infliction of death or torture on offenders the more abhorrent to Christian sensibility. It is too much like a mother *kissing*, while at the same time she presses her child to death; or a beautiful damsel, with all her charming airs, embracing, and at the same time slowly thrusting a fine stiletto into the bosom of her admirer. Death is death, torture is torture, injury is injury, how gently and politely soever inflicted. And there is a kind of fitness in having stern hearted, severe-natured persons to execute such sentences.

EVASION THIRD.

Another pleads that Jesus was inculcating the duty of referring all punishments to *magistracy* and the *government;* that he prohibited a resort to private revenges; and only meant to teach his disciples to seek redress for the injuries done them in courts of law. This is a still

lamer shift than the other. The connection gives no intimation whatever that this was his design. On the contrary, he enjoins non-resistance alike in respect to personal assault and legal wrong. *If a man smite thee on thy right cheek, offer the other. If he sue thee at the law and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. If he make thee a prisoner, and force thee to go with him, resist not.* This does not look like teaching them to go to law for redress of grievances, or encouraging them to make magistrates the revengers of their wrongs. He does not say "Ye have heard that it hath been said, let every man take vengeance on his own offenders, and redress his own grievances; but I say unto you look to the government, complain to the magistrates, carry all your causes into the courts for adjudication." Not a word of this. And not a word of it is to be found in any part of the New Testament. Jesus Christ never sued, or taught his followers to sue men at the law. It would have sunk his divine dignity to contempt, had he exhibited such folly.

EVASION FOURTH.

Another presumes he intended to discountenance all petty vindictiveness, retaliation and litigation, but not to forbid these things in *extreme* cases, on a great scale, and where important interests are at stake. This is very *accommodating*, but very *fallacious*. Who shall draw the line between the great and the small, the frivolous and the important, in these matters? The injured party, of course. It is for *him* to say whether the wrongs done him are of sufficient moment to justify litigation, retaliation, or personal resistance; and the consequence is, that *small* offences, insults and injuries, are *rare*. Nearly all

are too great to be endured. Jesus gives not the slightest intimation that he is drawing a line of distinction between *great* and *small* evils; and that he forbids his followers to resist ordinary personal injuries, whilst great ones are left to the law of resistance and retaliation. Such pleadings are only so many attempts of a worldly mind, to procure itself indulgence under the Christian name in practices on which, root and branch, the Son of God has placed the seal of prohibition.

EVASION FIFTH.

Another presumes to assert that Jesus never intended the precept, "Resist not evil," &c., "for a *general rule;* but it was given to his early followers, as their guide, when wronged by the tyrants under whom they lived. To resist *then* would be of no avail; it was better therefore patiently to endure." What a despicable expediency does this ascribe to the Saviour! What a *skulking prudence!* Resist not evil when unable to do so! Submit to irresistible tyranny and outrage. Offer the other cheek. Crawl like spaniels, when you cannot help yourselves! But fight like dragons when you have a fair prospect of overmatching your enemies! To a mind capable of drawing such a meaning from the words of Christ, I should think the text would furnish a *general rule*, i. e. "*submit* when you *must*, but *resist* when you *can*." If it were not utterly derogatory to the character of Jesus, and utterly unsupported by a single hint in the context, it might be worth while to attempt its sober refutation. As it is, the mere statement sufficiently explodes it.

EVASION SIXTH.

Still another argues that Jesus, though he preached strict non-resistance, as to the duty of his followers in all

strictly religious matters, nevertheless left them perfectly free in *secular* matters, to resist, litigate, and make war at discretion. That is, while attending purely to religious duties, and propagating Christianity by divinely appointed means, they must suffer all manner of personal abuse, insult, outrage, persecution, and violence, without offering the least resistance, either by individual force of arms or prosecutions at law. But as men of the world, politicians, merchants, tradesmen, money-getters, &c. they are at full liberty to follow the dictates of worldly expediency, and to resist even unto death all who threaten their lives, liberty or property. This stands on the same sandy foundation with the others, and cannot be sustained by one single decent looking reason. Indeed, its bare *statement* ought to be its sufficient refutation.

EVASION FINAL.

Finally, another declares that he does not know what Jesus *did really* mean to teach, in the passage under consideration; but he is sure it cannot have been the prohibition of life-taking, penal inflictions on criminals, defensive war, or personal self-defence under severe assault. Because Jesus himself had before declared in the same discourse:—"Think not that I am come to destroy the law and the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the right-

eousness of the scribes and pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5: 18—20. And what is the deduction from these words? It is, that if Moses commanded men to take "*life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand,*" &c., Jesus does not abrogate or invalidate such commandment, and cannot have intended any such thing, whatever else he meant; since one *jot* or *tittle* of the *least* of the commandments in the law and the prophets was not to be destroyed, or left unfulfilled. In answer to this, I may remark that it is rather a *cavil* than a candid objection, and would sound much better from the lips of an infidel, than from those of a professed Christian. It is alleging an apparent self-contradiction of Jesus. He says, "Ye have heard that it hath been said (i. e. by Moses and his expounders,) an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth; but I say unto you that ye resist not evil (thus); but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek (rather than smite him) turn unto him the other also." Then on the contrary he says, "Whosoever therefore, shall break one of the least of these commandments, (even the one which requires *eye to be taken for eye, and tooth for tooth,*) and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven," &c. Thus the opposer urges a self-contradiction. Well, if there be a contradiction, and it weigh anything at all in the case at issue, is it not worth as much *for* non-resistance as *against* it? Is not Jesus as good authority against himself for the abrogation of the commandment, as for its confirmation? Certainly. But if it would invalidate his testimony, then it only furnishes food for the infidel. Such is not the object; for I have heard this identical cavil from the lips of a venerable Hopkinsian clergyman. What then does it avail? If it

proves any thing against my construction of Matt. 5: 38—41, it certainly proves a great deal too much. It would carry us back, and bind us hand and foot to Judaism, with its every "*jot* and *tittle*." It would re-enact the whole ceremonial, as well as moral and penal code of the Mosaic dispensation! Circumcision, sacrifices, and all the commandments, *least* as well as *greatest*, would be made binding on us. No Christian would admit any thing like this for a moment. Many commandments have been abrogated: Jesus and Paul are explicit on this point. But it does not follow that any one has been absolutely *destroyed*, or left *unfulfilled*. Many have emerged from the *shadow* into the *substance*, from *types* and *figures* into the *reality*. Others have been lost in the *letter*, and more than preserved in the *spirit*. All have done their work, or are still doing it in the essence of Christianity. Did not Jesus mean to be understood in this sense, when he declared he had not "come to destroy the law or the prophets," but "to fulfil them," &c.? Was it to preserve them in the mere *letter* and *form*—in the *type* and *shadow*—or rather in their essence—in the absolute reality of their spiritual excellence? Clearly, the latter. When he abolished the *oath*, did he abolish the *truth*? Did he relax the obligations of men to speak the truth? Did he weaken the sanctions of truth? No; he enhanced them: He exalted the truth. In prohibiting his disciples from all inflictions of injury in resistance of evil, did he absolve them from one iota of the law of love—the obligation to love their neighbors as themselves—the doing unto others as they would that others should do unto them? Did he weaken that great law? Did he not exalt and perfect its power and sanctions? If his professed followers should faithfully obey his instruc-

tions, in respect to this heavenly treatment of offenders, would they become worse, or would offences *increase?* Let the tongue of blasphemy alone presume to say it? We know the contrary. In a word, we know that this self same doctrine of Christian non-resistance, as we deduce it from the passage before us, is the righteousness of the law and the prophets in its perfection and true glory; and therefore is in strict harmony with the doctrine taught in the 18th, 19th, and 20th verses. The cavil is silenced.

REASON FOR NOTICING ALL THESE EVASIONS.

I have been particular to notice these various constructions of our Lord's words, these attempts to avoid the legitimate force of Matt. 5: 38—41, and to disallow it as a proof text of the doctrine before us; not because I thought them really worthy of it in themselves: but because I have known them all urged and relied on by clergymen and reputable professed Christians, of various sects, in their struggle to withstand the truth. It is remarkable how very incongruous all these anti-non-resistant constructions, objections and cavils are. Yet I have heard them put forth with great confidence, even by different clergymen of the same general sect, and repeatedly pleaded with apparent sincerity and earnestness as a sufficient invalidation of our leading proof text. It is important to explode them, in order to secure the conviction of an order of minds, at once conscientious and intelligent, but liable to be misled by the confident special pleadings of those from whom they have been accustomed to receive their religious opinions. When we pretend to prove a doctrine, we ought not only to quote passages which *sound* well to the ear, but to de-

monstrate that those passages cannot fairly be construed into any other sense than that in which we take them. To have demonstrated Matt. 5: 38—41 to be an undeniable proof text of our doctrine is no small achievement in this department of my work. This once established, I can accomplish the rest with little difficulty. What I insist on, then, is, that I have adduced one fundamental proof from the highest scripture authority. If this cannot be invalidated; if it must be admitted; if the passage cannot fairly be construed to mean any thing else than I have shown, the probability is that I shall find ample corroborative proof all the way through the New Testament. I therefore proceed to make a further quotation from the same chapter and discourse.

SECOND PROOF, MATT. 5: 43—48.

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy: But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you." Ib. 5: 43, 44. This is plainly in the same strain, and of the same import with the other. It is clear, explicit, significant and forcible. By whom the saying, "thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy," had been literally uttered, I cannot with certainty learn. Probably it had long since passed into a common maxim. But in its nature and origin it was kindred with the preceding saying, "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." It derived its principal sanction from the Mosaic injunctions respecting capital criminals and doomed national enemies. Read the following passages. "If thou shalt hear say in one of thy cities, which the Lord thy God hath given thee to dwell

there, saying, certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known; then shalt thou inquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought among you: Thou shalt surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, destroying it utterly, and all that is therein, and the cattle thereof, with the edge of the sword. And thou shalt gather all the spoil of it into the midst of the street thereof, and shalt burn with fire the city, and all the spoil thereof every whit, for the Lord thy God: and it shall be a heap forever; it shall not be built again." Deut. 13: 12—16. "But of the cities of these people, which the Lord thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth. But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perrizites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee." Deut. 20: 16, 17. "Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor show mercy unto them." Ib. 7: 2. In accordance with these sentiments David utters the following language: "Plead my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me. Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for my help. Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul I am thy salvation. * * * Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the Lord chase them. Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the Lord persecute them." Psal. 35: 1—8.

With equal abhorrence of idolatry, and of all the

crimes of those who are holden to be outlaws and doomed enemies under the former Testament, but in striking contrast with the authorized hatred and vengeance exercised towards them, Jesus says, love, bless, do good to, and pray for them, even though they be your bitter foes and persecutors. He includes among enemies, haters and persecutors, all injurers, whether personal, social, religious or national. His words are equally irreconcilable with all hatred, all persecution, all cruelty, all war, all injury which one man, one family, one community, or one nation, can do to another. The truly *Christian* individual could not devise, execute, or abet any injury against an offending fellow man. What then would a truly *Christian* family, neighborhood, community, state or nation do? Could they act any other than the non-resistant part toward their foes and injurers? If they loved, blessed, benefitted, and prayed for the worst of agressors and offenders, what a spectacle would be presented! What a conquest would be achieved over all evil doers! Does not Jesus enjoin this sublime love and heavenly practice? Can he mean any thing less than appears upon the beautiful face of his words? What professed Christian can erect the gibbet, or light the faggot, or draw out the rack, or contrive any injurious punishment, or gird on any weapon of war, or give his sanction to any cruelty, by individuals or society, and yet plead that he is in the spirit and practice of this his Lord's commandment? Does *that* man love his enemies, bless those who curse him, do good to those that hate him and pray for his injurers, who hangs, or shoots, or tortures, or stones them, or holds himself sworn to inflict any such evils? But let us hear the Saviour urge his own precepts. "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven; for he

maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them (only) which love you, what reward have you? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Verses 45—48. Your Father loves *his* enemies, blesses those that curse him, and does good to them that hate him. Else the sun would not shine as it does on the evil, nor the rain distil on the unjust, nor salvation descend from heaven for the lost. Imbibe the spirit of your Father. Imitate his goodness to the unthankful and evil. Put on his moral character. Be his children. Be not content barely to love them that love you. Love, forbear with, benefit and seek to save even the guilty and undeserving. Else what higher are ye in the moral scale, than the publicans? Salute and befriend, not only your own kindred, friends and intimate associates, but all men, however strangers or hostile to you. Aspire continually to be perfectly, independently good to all, as your Father in heaven is. What can be plainer than this? What can be more pure, sublime, spiritually excellent, or morally beautiful! It is Christian non-resistance; or rather *that perfect love*, of which true non-resistance is a distinguishing fruit. But let us proceed.

THIRD PROOF—FORGIVENESS.

He enjoins the duty of forgiveness on the same general principle. "After this manner, therefore, pray ye." * * * "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if ye forgive

not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matt. 6: 12, 14, 15. "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times, but until seventy times seven." Ib. 18: 21, 22. See also the illustrating parable to the end of the chapter. "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any, that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses; but if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." Mark 11: 25, 26. "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive and ye shall be forgiven." Luke 6: 37.

The idea in all these passages is, that the injured party claims a right to punish the injurer on account of some actual offence. Jesus is not speaking of mere envious grudges, causeless resentment, or ill will. He pre-supposes a real injury done, which, according to the common law, "an eye for an eye," &c., or, in other words, according to strict *natural justice*, might rightfully be punished by the infliction of an equivalent evil on the offender. He does not palliate the offence, nor deny the ill-desert of the guilty party, nor require that his *wrong* should be considered *right*. He addresses the injured party, the rightful complainant, and commands him to forgive his injurer; i. e. not to exact the infliction of the deserved punishment; not to hold the offender punishable on his account, but to leave him as an object of pity, even though he be one of dread, *uninjured*—a subject of the same kindness as if he had committed no offence. He is to inflict no evil upon him on account of his trespass. This is human forgiveness, as enjoined by Jesus on all his followers. To enforce this he declares that

our Father in heaven will forgive the forgiving, but will not forgive the unforgiving. He reminds us that we have all sinned against our Father, and are justly punishable at his hands; that the only ground of our acceptance with *him*, and of his continued benefactions, is *his* GRACE, not *our* MERIT; and that we are perpetually entreating him to bless us in spite of our evil deserts. Therefore he enjoins that we forgive our fellow men their trespasses against us, as we beseech God to forgive us the sins we have committed against him. He requires that we do unto others as we would that God should do unto us. He commands us to refrain from punishing *our* offenders, and still to do them good, as we would that God should continue to forbear with and do us good, notwithstanding our sins. And if we freely forgive while we pray to be forgiven, this will attest our sincerity, and fit our spirits for the reception of the divine forgiveness. God will accept and commune with us: for we shall then present no insuperable bar to his inflowing love and mercy. But if, while we sue for mercy, we exercise none towards the guilty; if while we pray for forgiveness, we meditate vengeance against our offenders; if while we ask to be treated infinitely better than we deserve, we hold those who have trespassed against us punishable at our hands according to their deserts, we at once betray our own insincerity, offer mockery to God, and present an impassable bar of hardheartedness to his love and mercy. He is essentially a forgiving Father, but he *will* not, indeed *cannot* communicate his forgiveness to us. Our spirit is in opposition to his spirit; we do not worship him in spirit and in truth; we stand self-excluded from his presence—alike unforgiving and unforgiven. We cannot be at peace with him, nor worship him acceptably, nor

taste the richness of his grace, so long as we desire to punish our offenders. It is only in the spirit of human forgiveness that we can receive and enjoy the *divine* forgiveness. Such is the doctrine of Jesus. How blessed a doctrine is it to the broken-hearted, merciful and meek! How terrible a one to the iron-hearted, who delight in rigorous human punishment! Here the whole superstructure of piety and religion is baptized in the waters of non-resistance. We cannot even pray in a punishing spirit, without insulting a forgiving Father, and imprecating on our heads all the deserts of our own transgression. If we forgive not, but persist in punishing them that trespass against us, and yet pray to be forgiven of God *as we forgive*, we only call on God to be as severe and punitive towards us, as we are towards our fellow men. How tremendous a thought is this! Yet who can evade it. Jesus has brought it as a live coal from off the altar of God, and laid it on our consciences. Can the utmost ingenuity of man avoid the conclusion which these precepts of Christ, respecting forgiveness, are thus shown to warrant? I think not. Yet millions of professing Christians, authorize, aid, and abet war, capital punishment, and the whole catalogue of penal injuries. Still they daily pray God to forgive their trespasses *as they forgive!!* The language of the prophet Isaiah, in his 58th chapter, seems not inapplicable to them. "Cry aloud, spare not; lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God; they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God." See the subsequent verses. This drawing

near to God with the lips, while the heart is far from him, is as common as it is reprehensible. And in no respect is it more so, than in meditating and executing punishment for offences against ourselves, whilst in humble supplication we plead for the divine forgiveness of our own transgressions.

FURTHER IMPORTANT PROOFS.

Another important class of proof texts, corroborative of those already cited, is the following: "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." Jno. 18: 36. Compare this with Matt. 10: 16. "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." Also with Luke 22: 24—26. "And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve." In the same group we may include the following: "And they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from Heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye

are of. For the son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." Luke 9: 52—56, "Then came they and laid hands on Jesus, and took him. And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus, stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels." Matt. 26: 50—53. See also Jno. 8: 3—11, the case of the woman taken in adultery, and brought to Jesus to see whether he would adjudge her to be stoned to death, according to the law of Moses. After her accusers had declined executing the penalty, Jesus said—"Neither do I condemn thee, (i. e. to death) go and sin no more."

These and similar passages are impressive practical comments on the positive doctrinal precepts of the Saviour. His kingdom is not of this world, and therefore excludes all military and warlike defences. His ministers are sent forth unarmed, like sheep in the midst of wolves. They are therefore to be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. All things must be conducted on the non-resistant principle. There must be no political strife for the highest place; no patronizing lordship; no Gentile love of dominion; but they that really occupy the highest place, must prove themselves worthy of it, by an entire willingness to take the lowest; by governing only through the influence of useful service. Government must doff its worldly insignia, its craft, and its prerogative to punish, and be vested in real worth—unglorified, unpampered, and undistinguished by exclusive

privileges. This is Christian government. He and his followers might be treated inhospitably, as by the Samaritans, but no injury must be returned—not even though by a miracle fire could be commanded from heaven. No such spirit might be indulged. Because the Son of man came not to destroy men's lives, but to save them. Therefore non-resistance of evil with evil must be the invariable rule of action for his disciples forever. They must never destroy men's lives, but endeavor to save them. Even the *holy one*, at his betrayal into the hands of a mob, might not be defended with the sword by a Peter, because, "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." "The wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." Evil cannot be overcome with evil.

How is it possible to contemplate such clear, striking, mutually sustaining, irrefragable evidence of the scriptural truth of Christian non-resistance, without feeling the whole soul penetrated with profound conviction. But still the tide rises and flows on.

APOSTOLIC TESTIMONIES.

The Apostles, having been gradually delivered from their early traditionary and educational predispositions for a temporal and military kingdom, renounced all carnal weapons, and, drinking in the heavenly inspiration, reiterated the non-resistance doctrine of their Master: "Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." "Bless them which persecute you; bless, and curse not." "Recompense to no man evil for evil." "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves; but rather give place unto wrath; for it is

written—vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Rom. 12: 2, 14, 17, 19—21. "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints." "Now, therefore, there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another; why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded!" 1 Cor. 6: 1, 7. "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God, to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Cor. 10: 3—5. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh, with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Gal. 5: 22—25. "Be ye angry and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath." "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice." Ephes. 4: 26, 31. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering." Col. 3: 12. "See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves and to all men." 1 Thes. 5: 15. "Let us run with patience the race set before us, looking unto

Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." "For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds!" "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12: 1, 2, 3, 14. "My beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." James 1: 19, 20. "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Ib. 4: 1, 7. "This is thank-worthy, if a man for conscience towards God, endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously." 1 Peter. 2: 19—23. "And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But if ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye; and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled." "For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing than for evil doing. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust." Ib. 3: 13, 14, 17, 18 Also, Ib. 4: 13—19. "He that saith he abideth

in him, ought himself also to walk, even as he walked. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now, * * * and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his mind." 1 Jno. 2: 6, 11. "He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer, and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." Ib. 3: 14, 15. "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." "If a man say I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" Ib. 4: 12, 20.

GENERAL VIEW OF THE EVIDENCE.

Is it possible to read these quotations without an irresistible conviction of their perfect harmony with the teachings of the Saviour on this great subject? Can we doubt that they all proceeded from the same Divine source? And now what was the *example* of Jesus? What was the *practice* of the Apostles, after the resurrection of Christ, when fully endued with power and grace from on high? Did they ever slay any human being? Ever threaten to do so? Ever make use of any deadly weapon? Ever serve in the Army or Navy of any nation, state or chieftain? Ever seek or accept any office, legislative, judicial or executive, under the existing governments of their day? Ever make complaint to the magistrates against any offender or criminal, in order to procure his punishment? Ever commence any prosecution at law, to obtain redress of grievances? Ever apply to the civil or military authority to protect them by force of arms when in imminent danger? Or ever counsel others

to do any one of these acts? Did they ever express, by word or deed, their reliance on political, military, or penal power to secure personal protection, or to carry forward the christianization of the world? I answer confidently, NO. But let every one be fully persuaded in his own mind. Let the New Testament be thoroughly searched with reference to these questions. If it shall be found that I am correct, let the opposers of non-resistance make up their minds to yield. For if precept and practice, spirit and example, go together throughout the Scriptures of the New Testament, the case is decided beyond controversy. I am aware of the objections urged with so much desperation from such texts as that which speaks of the *scourge of small cords*, that which mentions the direction of Jesus to *buy swords*. Paul's appeal to Cæsar, his notification of the chief captain when the forty men *conspired* to slay him, the thirteenth chapter of Romans, &c. Neither of these, nor all of them together, will serve the objector's purpose, as I shall demonstrate in the next chapter. On the other hand, we are able to show a series of examples, indeed a life, conformable to the doctrine of non-resistance. And we are also able to show that this doctrine practically prevailed among the *primitive Christians* for a considerable time subsequent to the apostolic age.

Look at Jesus in the temptation. He was offered all the kingdoms of the world. But on what condition? Provided only he would fall down and worship the Tempter. Is not this essentially the condition on which his followers have ever been offered worldly political power? There is a spirit which animates and characterizes carnal human government. It is the destroying spirit—the *angel of injury*, the old serpent of violence. This is the grand con-

trolling power underneath the throne, the dernier resort, the ultimate indispensable reliance of all mere worldly *authority*. And *he* is accounted a fool who supposes there can be any such thing as government among mankind without it. Consequently its solemn acknowledgment is now, as ever, the condition on which men must take the sceptre, or assume the seals of office. He who would rule, must first worship this genius of violence—must swear to support his authority with sword and penal vengeance. Jesus chose the pain and shame of the cross, in preference to the fame and glory of universal empire on such a condition. It was no inducement with him, that all the world should take his name, and verbally confess him Lord, while at heart and in practice they served the evil spirit. He would not be a king of nations, when he could not be a king of hearts and consciences. He would not do evil that good might come:—because his kingdom was not of this world, but was essentially one of righteousness and peace. So he spurned an offered sceptre, and left it in hands which he knew would ere long baptize him in his own non-resistant blood. For the same reason, when he perceived the determination of the people to proclaim him a king, he promptly placed himself beyond their reach. Nor would he be a "judge and a divider," among the people. Nor when he alone stood up in innocence to pass a rightful condemnation on the adulterous woman, would he pronounce the deadly sentence, or raise the destroying stone. When a violent multitude, led on by his betrayer, came to seize him in the prayerful solitude of Gethsemane, he raised not a weapon of defence. But he rebuked his mistaken disciple for drawing the sword, healed the wound he had inflicted, and taught him that all who take must perish with

the sword. So he suffered himself to be "led as a sheep dumb before the shearers," and "as a lamb to the slaughter." They stripped him of his raiment, attired him in a mock royal robe, crowned him with thorns, smote him, spit upon him, sentenced him without cause to death-nailed him to the cross between two malefactors, tormented him in his agonies, and followed him to the verge of life with all the venom of a murderous hate. Yet never a word of threatening, reviling, cursing or bitterness escaped him. With a meek and sorrowful dignity he bore all; and at the moment when he could have summoned legions of angels to his rescue, and to the destruction of his foes, lo, he uttered that last victorious prayer:—"*Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.*" The mourning heavens in silence heard. Then came the expiring groan—not to seal the just perdition of a murderous world, but as the awful *amen* of the New Covenant, and the signal of complete triumph over hatred, sin and death!

THE PRIMITIVE CHRISTIANS.

If we enter among the evangelists and apostles of the Crucified, and inquire how they lived and died, what will be the response? "God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed unto death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men," "We both hunger and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place." "Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it; being defamed, we entreat: we are made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things." Stephen was stoned to death, calling on the Saviour to receive his spirit, and with the holy prayer on his lips, "*Lord lay*

not this sin to their charge." James was slain with the sword, Peter crucified, Paul beheaded, and innumerable martyrs brought to seal their testimony with their blood. But in those days they suffered all things for the sake of the cross, and inflicted *nothing*. Always heroic for the truth, yet meek, patient and non-resistant, they exemplified in a wonderful manner the depth and strength of their Christian principles. Never do we find them aspiring to places of power; never distinguishing themselves in the army; never wheedling and coaxing the worldly great to shed on them the renown of their official influence; never engaged in rebellions, riots, tumults, or seditions; never trusting in carnal weapons for the security of their persons, not even in the most barbarous and ruffian-like society; never cursing, reviling, or insulting even their persecutors. Such were the apostles and primitive Christians. They had learned of Jesus; and non-resistance, for the first two centuries, was the practical orthodoxy of the church. Justin Martyr, early in the second century, declared the *devil to be the author of all war.* Tertullian denounced the bearing of arms, saying, *shall he who is not to avenge his own wrongs, be instrumental in bringing others into chains, imprisonment, torment, death?*" Lactantius declares: — "*It can never be lawful for a righteous man to go to war, whose warfare is in righteousness itself.*" "We find," says Clarkson, "from Athenagoras and other early writers, that the Christians of their times abstained, when they were struck, from striking again; and that they carried their principles so far, as even to refuse to go to law with those who injured them." The language of those primitive Christians was in this strain:—One says, "It is not lawful for a Christain to bear arms." Another—"Because I am a Chris-

tian, I have abandoned my profession of a soldier." A third—"I am a Christian, and therefore I cannot fight!" A fourth, Maximillian:—"I cannot fight, if I die; I am not a soldier of this world, but a soldier of God." And in his fidelity he died by the hands of military tyranny.

TESTIMONY OF CELSUS AND GIBBON.

Celsus, a heathen philosopher, wrote an elaborate work against the Christians, about the middle of the second century. One of his grave allegations was in the following words:—"You will not bear arms in the service of the empire when your services are needed, and if all the nations should act upon this principle, the empire would be overrun by the barbarians."

Gibbon, the popular English historian of the declining Roman empire, a skeptic as to Christianity, incidentally confirms the fact that the early Christians were unequivocal non-resistants. "The defence of our persons and property they knew not how to reconcile with the patient doctrine, that enjoined an unlimited forgiveness of past injuries, and commanded them to invite fresh insults. Their simplicity was offended by the use of oaths, by the pomp of magistracy, and by the active contention of public life; nor could their humane ignorance be convinced that it was lawful, on any occasion, to shed the blood of their fellow creatures, either by the sword of justice or that of war, even though their criminal and hostile attempts should threaten the whole community." * * * * "They felt and confessed that such institutions [life-taking, &c.] might be necessary for the present system of the world, and they cheerfully submitted to the authority of their Pagan Governors. But while they inculcated the maxims of passive obedience, they refused to take

any active part in the civil administration, or military defence of the empire." Vol. I. p. 24. "The humble Christians were sent into the world as sheep among wolves, and since they were not permitted to employ force, even in the defence of their religion, they deemed that they should be still more criminal, if they were tempted to shed the blood of their fellow creatures, in disputing the vain privileges, or the sordid possessions of this transitory life. Faithful to the doctrine of the apostle, who in the reign of Nero had preached the duty of unconditional submission, the Christians of the three first centuries preserved their conscience pure and innocent of the guilt of secret conspiracy, or open rebellion. While they experienced the rigor of persecution, they were never provoked either to meet their tyrants in the field, or indignantly to withdraw themselves into some remote and sequestered corner of the globe." Vol. II. p. 200.

Can there be any doubt that Jesus Christ, his apostles, and the primitive Christians held, taught, and exemplified the doctrine for which I am contending? Is not the scriptural proof of its truth abundant, positive, unequivocal and irresistible? It seems to me that it is. I therefore commend what has been submitted to the deliberate consideration of all candid minds, whose veneration for and attachment to the Scriptures give *their* testimony the least weight in determining such a question.

CHAPTER III.

SCRIPTURAL OBJECTIONS ANSWERED.

Obj. 1. You throw away the Old Testament—Voice of the New Testament—Voice of the Old Testament—Obj. 2. The scourge of small cords—Obj. 3. The two swords—Obj. 4. The death of Ananias and Sapphira—Obj. 5. Human government—Thirteenth of Romans—How the apostles viewed the then existing governments—Submission *to*, not participation *in* governments enjoined on Christians—In what sense the powers that be are ordained of God—Pharaoh God's "minister"—Also the monarch of Assyria—Also Nebuchadnezzar—The Roman government—Respects wherein government is ordained of God—Paul's conduct in relation to government—Conclusion.

I devote the present chapter to the consideration of Scriptural Objections. Our doctrine is obviously sustained by the most abundant and convincing proofs from the scriptures of the New Testament. It forces a degree of conviction on many minds by no means prepared for the great practical change involved, or even for a cordial assent to the doctrine itself. Hence they fall back behind certain apparently formidable objections, urged by more determined opponents, from the scriptures. They demand that *these* should be satisfactorily answered. It is only fair that it should be done.

OBJECTION I.—YOU THROW AWAY THE OLD TESTAMENT.

"You quote exclusively from the scriptures of the New Testament, to prove the non-resistance doctrine. Those of the Old Testament are unequivocally against it. They afford abundant precepts and examples in justification of war, capital punishment, and various forms of penal restraint on criminals. Is not the whole Bible the word of God? Do you throw away and trample under foot the Old Testament? If your doctrine were of God, it would be equally proveable from both Testaments."

ANSWER. It is true that I have quoted exclusively from the scriptures of the New Testament, to prove the doctrine of Christian non-resistance. And I grant that those of the Old Testament, with a few unimportant exceptions, are unequivocally against it, i. e., taken independently of the Christian revelation. I also admit the whole Bible, properly considered and interpreted, to be in a *general sense* the word of God. But I do not admit the Old Testament to be as clearly, fully and perfectly the word of God as the New Testament; nor to be of equal authority with the latter, on questions of doctrine and duty; nor to be the rule of faith and practice for Christians. It is to be held in reverence as the prophecy and preparative of the New Testament—the fore-shadow of better things to come. If I can prove this to be the true character and office of the Old Testament, I shall thereby silence the objection before us. Not only so, I shall demonstrate that I pay the highest respect to both Testaments; and that those who claim for the Old an *equal* authority with the New, *discredit* both. Let us settle this point. The scriptures of the two Testaments

shall speak for themselves. What they say of each other must determine the matter.

VOICE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

We will commence with the New Testament. "God, who at sundry times, and in divers manners, spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." Heb. 1: 1, 2. "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses in all his house. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he that builded the house, hath more honor than the house." "Moses verily was faithful in all his house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after. But Christ as a Son over his own house, whose house are we, &c., Ib. 3: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6. "For if perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should arise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change of the law." "There is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before, for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope *did;* by the which we draw nigh to God." "By so much was Jesus made the surety of a better Testament." Ib. 7: 11, 12, 18, 19, 22. "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry than they, by how much also he is the mediator of a

better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first Covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For, finding fault with them, he saith, Behold the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah; not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day when I took them by the hand, to lead them out of the land of Egypt, &c.* * * After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people," &c. "In that he saith, a new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." Ib. 8: 6, 13. See Ib. 10: 1, 2. "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions till the seed should come to whom the promise was made." "But before faith came we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our school-master to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a school-master." Gal. 3: 19, 23, 25. "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ, which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit." Ephes. 3: 4, 5. "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. But if the ministration

of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away; how shall not the ministration of the Spirit be rather glorious?" "For even that which was made glorious, had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory which excelleth." "Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech, and not as Moses, who put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished. But their minds were blinded; for until this day, remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart." 2 Cor. 3: 5—8, 10—15. "Having, therefore, obtained help of God, I continue unto this day witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come. That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles." Acts 26: 22, 23. "Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you, saying, Ye must be circumcised and keep the law; to whom we gave no such commandment." "For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well." Ib. 15: 24, 29. "And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Ib. 13: 39. "For Moses truly said

unto the fathers, a Prophet shall the Lord your God arise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things, whatsoever he shall say unto you. Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel, and those that follow after, have likewise foretold of these days." Ib. 3: 22, 24. "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings how shall ye believe my word." John 5: 45--47. "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write." John 3: 45. "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me." Luke 24: 44. "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." Ib. 16: 16. "Among those that are born of women, there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." Ib. 7: 28, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He was not that Light, but send to bear witness of that Light, the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." "John bore witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me." "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." John 1: 6—8, 15, 17, 18. "John answered and said. A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven." "He

[Christ] must increase, but I must decrease. He that cometh from above, is above all." For God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him." John 3: 27, 31, 34.

Such is the testimony of the New Testament Scriptures. The objector professes to hold them, at least, *equally* authoritative with those of the Old Testament, and to receive the entire Bible as the word of God. Now, does he implicitly believe what is declared in the forecited passages? Does he believe that "Christ was counted worthy of more glory than Moses;" that Moses was "a servant, but Christ a son over his own house:" that "perfection was not by the Levitical priesthood:" that Christ is the great "High Priest after the order of Melchisedec:" that "the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change of the law:" that the old "law made nothing perfect:" that Jesus was made the surety of a better Testament—the mediator of a better covenant: that the old covenant was faulty, that it waxed old and was ready to "vanish away:" that the law was a mere "schoolmaster to bring mankind to Christ:" that the New Testament is not of "the letter which killeth, but of the spirit which giveth life:" that the law was "a ministration of death," whose "glory was to be done away:" that the Christian dispensation "excelleth in glory:" that the *end* of the Mosaic dispensation was, to be "abolished:" that a veil remaineth untaken away from a certain Judaizing class of minds in reading the Old Testament, "which veil is done away in Christ:" that Moses and the prophets wrote of Christ: that Moses wrote of him when he announced the future coming of a prophet, whom the people should "HEAR IN ALL THINGS:" that the law and the prophets were until John the Baptist, and then the kingdom of God was preached: that John was greatest among pro-

phets previously born, and yet inferior to the least in the gospel kingdom: that Christ was before and above John—from heaven and above all—endowed with the Spirit beyond measure—the true "light of the world?" If he believes all this, what becomes of his objection? If he believes it not, what becomes of the New Testament?

VOICE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

And what says the Old Testament? Does it contradict the testimony of the New? Does it represent itself as the perfect and final revelation of God respecting divine truth, human duty and destiny? Does it claim a higher mission, or more permanent authority, than is ascribed to it in the New? Does not Moses predict Christ, and enjoin that he shall be heard in *all things*? Do not the prophets foreshow the coming of the Messiah, and the establishment of a new covenant, superior to that of Sinai? Do not all the types and shadows of the old dispensation presuppose a new and more glorious one? Is there any need of my quoting texts from the Old Testament Scriptures to this effect? No; the objector will not demand it. He will spare me the labor. For he must admit the obvious truth. To doubt it would be to doubt the divine inspiration of both Testaments, and thus to do the very thing he so much deprecates—discredit the whole Bible. If then, the New Testament claims to supersede the Old, and the Old, by prophecy, type and shadow, announced beforehand the coming in of a more glorious dispensation than itself, viz. the New, the point is settled forever. ☞ *The New Testament supersedes the Old on all questions of divine truth and human duty.* In affirming this, I only affirm what both Testaments unequivocally declare respecting themselves and each other. To question it is

virtually to question the credibility of both. To affirm the contrary is to charge falsehood on both. Instead, therefore, of throwing away the Old Testament, I receive its testimony and render it a just reverence. By looking to the New Testament and accepting it as my rule of faith and practice, I render the most honorable obedience to the teachings of the *Old*. Whereas they who turn back from the perfection of the New to the imperfection of the Old—from the substance to the shadow—from sun-light to lamp-light, to determine their Christian duty, trample on both Testaments, and invalidate the whole Bible. They believe neither; they obey neither.

In this view of the subject, the Old Testament, being in its nature and design a prophecy and foreshadow of the New, is not *against* but *for* non-resistance; notwithstanding the anti-non-resistant character, for the time, of its particular precepts and examples. Because it is, on the whole, *for* Christ and the supreme authority of his teachings, non-resistance included. It is for the New Testament with all its peculiarities, and for the excellency of the glorious gospel. Who can gainsay this? Hence, for professed Christians to quote its precepts and examples as applicable to the present dispensation, is not only a gross perversion, but a kind of pious fraud—not to be tolerated for a moment. That man can be no friend to the Old Testament, who drags it into overbearing conflict with the New. He is the enemy of both. Nor is *he* the friend of Moses, who claims *equality* for him with Jesus Christ. It is no better than an attempt to turn a faithful herald into a rival of the king his master, whose approach he is commissioned to announce and prepare for. Yet there have never been wanting those who have set up Moses in superiority to Jesus. Moses

predicted, and instituted preparations for the coming of, a Prophet whom the Lord God should in due time raise up. That Prophet was Christ. And what did Moses enjoin respecting the reverence to be paid to Christ? "Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you." Well, the predicted one came into the world and spake as man never before had spoken. But he corrected some, modified others, and absolutely abrogated several of the sayings of Moses. Moses, for the hardness of the people's hearts, had authorized them to divorce their wives for ordinary causes of dislike. But Jesus imperatively forbade them to do so, except for one cause—fornication. Moses sanctioned sacred and judicial oath-taking, and enjoined the most faithful performance of all vows. "But I say unto you swear not at all," is the injunction of Jesus. Moses said—"life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth," &c. "But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil" thus, is the mandate of the new Prophet. This very superiority of Jesus to Moses became an offence to the Jews. "Whom makest thou thyself?" said they contemptuously. "We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is." But Jesus said—"if ye had believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me." Yet he became to them a stumbling stone, and a rock of offence. They would not hear him in all things, even though solemnly enjoined by Moses to do so. The same stumbling still happens among professing Christians. When the plain non-resistant precepts of Jesus are urged upon them, and are demonstrated to be prescriptive requirements of the gospel, they are accounted hard sayings. The old law of retaliation is so sweet, and inflictions of evil are so convenient, as means

of resisting evil, that though unable to avoid the obvious non-resistant construction of the language in which those precepts are expressed, they retire behind the authority of Moses, and deny that Jesus abrogated his sayings. They do not know what Jesus really meant, but they affect to be certain that he left *war, capital punishment, penal inflictions* and *personal resistance*, just where Moses did. Though Jesus expressly refers to the saying of Moses—"life for life, eye for eye, and tooth for tooth"—and revokes it, still they adhere to it. And this they do under pretence of extraordinary reverence for the word of God—the whole Bible; alleging that non-resistants contemn Moses and the Old Testament, in the very act of receiving Jesus and the new covenant for what those precursors announced they should be. But the accusation returns upon their own heads. *They* are the contemners of Moses and the Old Testament. For if they believed Moses and the prophets, they would believe in Jesus and the New Testament, as more excellent, glorious and authoritative than their forerunners. But as it is, they receive neither the Old nor the New Testaments as the *Word of God*, in any such sense as *each* separately, and *both* mutually, purport to be. Is it to be believed, then, that if they could summon Moses from the world of spirits, he would commend them for their adherence to his warlike and punitive precepts, regardless of Christ's non-resistant precepts? Would he thank them for overbearing and nullifying the laws of Jesus, by perpetuating and enforcing his code? Would he not rebuke them for their unbelief and rebellion of soul? Would he not, like Elias, say, "he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear?" "He must increase, but I must decrease. He that is of the

earth is earthly; he that cometh from heaven is ABOVE ALL." "Hear him in *all things*." I consider the objection under notice fairly answered.

OBJECTION II.—THE SCOURGE OF SMALL CORDS.

"And Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and found in the temple those that sold oxen, and sheep, and doves, and the changers of money, sitting. And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changer's money, and overthrew the tables; and said unto them that sold doves, take these things hence; make not my Father's house a house of merchandize. And his disciples remembered that it was written, the zeal of thy house hath eaten me up." Jno. 2: 13—17. Is not this transaction of Jesus directly contrary to your doctrine of non-resistance?

ANSWER.—Whether the conduct of Jesus on this occasion was inconsistent with my construction of his non-resistance precepts, depends very much on the particular facts of the case. Did Jesus injure, or threaten to injure, any person whom he expelled from the temple? Did he impair the life or health of any human being? Did he wantonly destroy property? Did he commit any injurious act on the body, mind, or rightful estate of any person concerned? If he did, his conduct was inconsistent with what I have defined to be Christian non-resistance. If he did not, it is perfectly reconcilable with my doctrine. That he displayed an extraordinary zeal for the religious honor of the temple is certain. That by some remarkable means he caused a considerable number of persons trafficking within the temple suddenly to remove from the same, with their animals and

other effects, is granted. That those persons had no right to occupy the temple for such purposes, and ought to have voluntarily removed upon the remonstrance of Jesus, will, I trust, be admitted on all sides. The precise point of inquiry is, did Jesus inflict any injury on the persons, estate, or morals of those who were caused to remove by his interference? If it is to be presumed that he inflicted blows on the men with his scourge of small cords, and that he violently upset tables covered with coin, scattering it in all directions, I should have to admit that he injured, more or less, those whom he drove out of the temple. But I want some proof that he touched a single person with his scourge, and that in overthrowing the money changers' tables he exhibited a single undignified gesture. He urgently and authoritatively commanded the intruders to remove those things thence, and probably assisted in pouring their money into such vessels as were at hand, and in removing the fixtures they had constructed for their convenience. In all this he was earnest and determined, no doubt. But was he violent, outrageous, or punitive? Are we to imagine him rushing furiously among the sacrilegious, smiting right and left whomsoever he might reach with his scourge; knocking one thing one way, and another the other way; tearing up and kicking over benches, tables and seats, like the leader of a mob!! Some minds seem to imagine such proceedings as these, and of course conclude that many grievous cuts of the scourge remained on the persons of the expelled, and that money and other property was wantonly destroyed or wasted, or at least lost to the owners. But as I have an equally good right to *imagine* how Jesus acted on the occasion, I shall presume that he did nothing unworthy of the principles, the

character and spirit which uniformly distinguished him. When he saw the temple occupied by such a mixed multitude of pretended worshippers; some really devout, some hypocritically observing their formalities, and many others, who, while professing to be promoting the service of God, were intent only on acquiring gain—crowding their cattle, fowls, and money changing tables hard upon the sanctuary—so that the lowing of oxen, bleating of sheep, cooing of doves, clinking of coin, and vociferations of the keepers, mingled confusedly with the prayers, hymns, recitations and responses of the devotees, his soul was filled with grief, loathing and abhorrence. A divine zeal fired his mind, to testify against and suppress this gross confusion and sacrilegious disorder. Taking up from the pavement a few of those rushes, or pieces of small cord made of rushes, which chanced to lie about him, he fastened them together in the form of a scourge or switch, and holding it up as an emblem of the condemnation in which the multitude had involved themselves, he commenced rebuking them for corrupting the divine worship, and mocking the Almighty with such a medley of prayer and traffick. Waxing warmer in his denunciations, he assumed a high moral and religious tone of authority, and commanded the temple to be instantly cleansed of all those nuisances. The people amazed and overawed by the truth, justice, earnestness and uncompromising energy of his rebukes, shrunk backward from his presence, yielded to the impulse which his moral force imparted to them, almost involuntarily obeyed his directions, and in a short time were actively engaged in the work of removal. Jesus, waving the emblem of condemnation and reproach, but without harming either man or beast, followed up the retreating throng,

urging forward the cattle, expediting the clearing and taking down of the money changer's tables, and pouring forth with increasing fervor his rebukes and admonitions into the ears of the people, till the work was consummated. I take for granted that in this whole proceeding, spiritual and moral power was the all-controlling element; that Jesus used very little physical force, and *that little* uninjuriously; that he acted in all respects worthily of his authority, dignity, spirit and mission as the Son of God; that there was nothing of the mobocrat, fanatic, or police officer in his manner; and that he did no *injury* to any human being,—nothing but good to all parties concerned. This is what *I imagine* respecting this affair. There is no positive proof one way or the other; as to the particular facts, we are left to form the best judgment we can in view of the probabilities. These are all on the non-resistant side of the question. It is unnatural, absurd, and altogether improbable to suppose, that Jesus drove out so large a number of persons, by actually scourging, or threatening to scourge their bodies. That he severely scourged their minds with just *reproof*, of which his rush scourge was a significant emblem, I willingly admit. And in this there is nothing inconsistent with non-resistance, as I have defined it. I insist, then, that it was neither mobocratic, military, political, or any mere physical force, by which Jesus cleansed the temple; but divine, spiritual and moral power. Therefore, I throw the laboring oar upon the objector, and demand that he adduce some evidence, other than mere inference or conjecture, that the Saviour struck a single person with his scourge, or otherwise absolutely injured any human being. When something like this shall be proved,

I will confess the force of the objection. Until then, I shall consider it sufficiently answered.

OBJECTION III.—THE TWO SWORDS.

According to the 22d chapter of Luke, Christ directed his disciples to provide themselves swords. "He that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one." Swords could be of no other use than as weapons of war, or of self-defence. How can this be reconciled with your doctrine of non-resistance?

ANSWER.—There is *one* other use, to which the sword might possibly be put. It might be employed on a memorable occasion as the significant emblem of injurious resistance, for the purpose of emphatically inculcating non-resistance. I will attempt to demonstrate that this was the special use to which Jesus intended to apply it in the case before us. He gave this direction to buy swords at the last passover, just before his betrayal in the garden of Gethsemane. When he had given it, his disciples presently responded,—"Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough," v. 38. How could two swords be enough to arm twelve men for war or self-defence? This single fact shows that such was not the design of Jesus. He had a more sublime purpose. When Judas gave the traitorous kiss, and the multitude approached to seize Jesus, his disciples demanded, saying, "Lord, shall we smite with the sword? And one of them smote a servant of the high priest, and cut of his right ear." v. 49, 50. Matthew (26: 52) informs us how Jesus disposed of the sword. "Then said Jesus unto him, put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." So saying, he touched the wounded ear, and

restored it, suffering himself to be borne away by his enemies without resistance. Thus the sequel proved that he caused swords to be provided for that occasion, (two only being enough) for the sole purpose of emphatically, finally, and everlastingly prohibiting the use of the instrument, even by the innocent in self-defence. Ever after this, those apostles, and for a long time the primitive Christians, conscientiously eschewed the use of the sword. These three facts prove my assertion. 1. Two swords were enough. 2. The moment one of these was wielded in defence of betrayed innocence, it was peremptorily stayed, the wound caused by it healed, and the sublime mandate given, "Put up thy sword again into his place; for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." And 3. The apostles and primitive Christians obeyed the injunction, never afterwards making the least use of such deadly weapons. This objection then ends in solid confirmation of the non-resistance doctrine, and may be appreciated accordingly.

OBJECTION IV.—DEATH OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA.

The sudden death of Ananias and his wife Sapphira, for deception practised on the apostles, in keeping back a portion of their estate for private use, while pretending to consecrate the whole to the use of the church, seems to have been virtually an infliction of capital punishment. Is this reconcileable with your non-resistance?

ANSWER.—The death of those persons is not represented as the act of the apostles, or as in any manner procured or occasioned by them. It is recorded as the visitation of God, without any curse, imprecation or wish of men. This will more fully appear from the record itself. "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sap-

phira, his wife, sold a possession, and kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thy heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thy heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and gave up the ghost." Three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in, Peter said unto her, "How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straight way at his feet, and yielded up the ghost." Acts 5: 1—5, 7—10. Is there any intimation in this account, that Peter, or any of the other apostles, assumed judicial authority over those persons? Or that they assumed any power, human or divine, over their lives? Or that they caused, occasioned, imprecated or desired their death? Certainly not. The case then is not one on which the objection can pertinently rest. I therefore dismiss it.

OBJECTION V.—HUMAN GOVERNMENT—13TH OF ROMANS, &C.

Human government is recognised in the New Testament, as the ordinance of God, for good to mankind. Rulers are declared to be a terror, not to good works, but to the evil, ministers of God, and revengers "to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil;" who bear not the sword in vain, and ought to receive tribute, custom and honor at the hands of Christians," not only for *wrath*, but also for

conscience' sake." Paul pleaded his citizenship as a Roman to obtain an honorable discharge from prison, and on another occasion to save himself from the scourge. He applied for military protection to save his life from the forty conspirators, and appealed to Cæsar to obtain justice in his defence against the accusations of the Jews. See Romans 13: 1—7. Acts 16: 37. Ib. 22: 24—29. Ib. 23: 17. Ib. 25: 10—12. Titus 3: 1. 1 Peter 2: 13, 14, and other passages. Now, as human government, in all its various forms, with its military and penal terrors, is the ordinance of God for good to mankind; as its rulers are declared to be the ministers of God for the protection of the innocent and the punishment of the guilty; and as its requirements are to be respected with submission, it follows that Christians, instead of non-participating therein, on account of war, capital punishment and penal inflictions, ought to share in its responsibilities, and be its firmest supporters,—always conscientiously endeavoring to render it in the highest degree efficient for its divinely appointed purpose. Here then is an insuperable objection to your doctrine of non-resistance—certainly so, as respects government, war, capital punishment, &c.

Answer. This is by far the most plausible and seductive objection, now urged against Christian non-resistance. It deceives and misleads more good minds, and is harder to be answered than any other. And yet it is essentially fallacious and invalid. This I will endeavor to demonstrate. Government is the bond of social order. It is that directing and regulating authority which keeps individuals in their proper relations to each other and the great whole. The intelligent Christian must contemplate it in three several characters. 1. Government *per se*; 2. Government *de jure*; and

3. Government *de facto*. Government *per se* is authority exercised to maintain and promote moral order. Moral order, of course, presupposes rational social beings. When such beings are in a state of true moral order, they are right-minded, and being right-minded, gradually reduce all things physical to the right condition. Mind governs *matter*, and moral authority governs *mind*. Moral order involves all other order. Imperfect moral order leaves all things in a state of imperfect order. Moral disorder draws after it all manner of physical disorder. Therefore, all depends on a supreme moral authority, or government. This must be inherently *divine*. It is original and self-existent in God only. Government *per se*, then, is essentially *divine*; it is of and from God. It is not original in any created being. Wherever it exists, it is derivable from God. If so, there is, strictly speaking, no such thing as human government. Man is always subordinate to God, and can have no right to enact any law, or to exercise any governmental power contrary to the *divine* law and government. If human nature possessed original, independent governing authority, men could rightfully repeal, or nullify the divine law. Now they cannot. Consequently all law and government absolutely contrary to the law and government of God is morally null and void. But all law and government, in accordance with the divine law and government, is *morally* binding on every human being. This presents government in its second character; government *de jure*, or of absolute right. That all human governments ought to be conformed to the standard of the *divine* none will deny. If they were thus conformed, they would cease to be *human* in their spirit and character. They would become mere incar-

nations and elaborations of the *divine*. But as the word human, when joined to the word government, may imply nothing more than a *human* manifestation, in a well regulated social organization, I will not discard its use, my meaning being understood. I will say, then, that Christian non-resistance, so far from conflicting with government *per se*, or human government *de jure*, i. e., human government strictly subordinate and conformed to the divine government, holds the first supremely sacred, and the last as its grand desideratum. And on this very account it requires the disciples of Christ to keep themselves disentangled from all such human governments as are fundamentally repugnant to the divine government,—all such as are not *de jure*, according to the law of God declared by Jesus Christ. This brings into view the third character, in which non-resistants are obliged to contemplate government; viz: government *de facto*, as it is in fact. And what has human government ever been in *fact*, from the beginning to this day? Has it been identical with the divine government? Has it been radically government *de jure*, according to the law of the living God? Is the present government of the United States, with all its captivating professions, and really good things, fundamentally a Christian government? Who will dare to say so? What then was human government *de facto* in the apostolic times? The government of Herod, Pilate, Nero and the Roman Cæsars, under whom oppression, injustice, tyranny and cruelty rioted on human rights, deluged the habitable globe with blood, crucified the Son of God, and made myriads of martyrs?

Now, a preliminary question to be settled is, whether the Apostle Paul, in the 13th chapter of Romans, speaks

of government *per se*, or of government *de jure*, or of government *de facto*. If only of the *first* or *second*, then is there no incompatibility of his words with non-resistance, and the objection falls to the ground. But if he speaks of human governments and rulers, such as they were in the Roman empire, further investigation will be necessary to set the subject in a true light. I will take for granted that he was speaking of the governments and rulers under whom Christians then lived; for I can suppose nothing else.

HOW THE APOSTLES VIEWED THE THEN EXISTING GOVERNMENTS.

Taking this ground, we wish to know precisely how he and the other apostles viewed those governing powers, and how they counselled the disciples of Christ to feel and act with regard to them. If Christ and His apostles regarded the Cæsars and their subordinate kings, governors and magistrates, as moved and approved of God, as His *conscious* ministers, in carrying on the government of those times; if they really held the then existing governments of the earth to be *ordained* of God, in the same sense that their own spiritual, religious and moral authority was, then is the objection before us *unanswerable*. Then, of course, I must admit that it is the duty of Christians to share in the responsibility of any government under which they may live, and to support its requirements in all things, war, capital punishment, persecution, idolatry, slavery and whatever else it may exact. It would then be God's own law and voice—to be obeyed implicitly in all things. There could be no limitations or exceptions. Did the apostles teach such doctrine as this? If they did, how happens

it that they and the primitive Christians kept themselves so scrupulously aloof from the governments of their times? No: the objector will not contend for any such unqualified endorsement of human government by the apostles. He will disclaim such extreme conclusions. He will admit the gross corruption, tyranny and wickedness of those very governments which Paul declares to have been "ordained of God." He will admit more than I shall stop to demand, of horrible impiety, iniquity and persecution on the part of those very rulers, whom the apostle declares to be the "ministers of God—avengers to execute wrath on evil doers." He will not argue that such governments as those of the Herods, the Pilates and the Neroes, were "ordained of God," in the same sense that the Church of Jesus Christ was. Nor that those bloody minded rulers and their agents were "ministers of God," consciously and approvedly, as were the apostles. He knows that Paul never intended to be so understood. Here, then, is the mischievous little catch of the objection. Words and phrases are taken in a false sense. There is a sense in which it is true that "there is no power but of God;" in which "the powers that be are ordained of God;" in which "rulers," even the worst of them, "are not a terror to good works, but to the evil;" in which they are "the ministers of God for good" to the righteous, and "avengers to execute wrath" on men of violence. But what is this sense? Let us investigate the matter.

SUBMISSION TO, NOT PARTICIPATION IN, GOVERNMENT ENJOINED ON CHRISTIANS.

It is clear that Christians are everywhere in the New Testament enjoined to render respect and submission to

human governments, kings, rulers and magistrates. They are forbidden to resist "the powers that be," or their ordinances, by any act of wanton disobedience, insurrection, sedition or violence whatsoever. They are commanded to obey them in all things not involving disobedience to God, and *then* to do their duty patiently, suffering whatever persecution, penalties or violence government may inflict upon them. But it is equally clear that Christians are nowhere in the New Testament enjoined to enter into political combinations; nor to accept offices of trust and emolument, civil or military, under any human government; nor to apply to courts of law for redress of injuries committed upon them; nor to seek personal protection from the civil or military power. All this being assumed, we wish to ascertain whether Christians are enjoined to pay respect, submission and tribute to *governments* and their administrative officers, otherwise than to bodies of men, or individuals not governmentally organized, constituted and empowered. It would seem that they are. They are to render respect, submisson, tribute and custom to governments and rulers *as such*. There must then be reasons for paying this peculiar deference and homage. What are they? Paul presents them in the passage referred to, Romans 13: 1—7. But there is a difficulty in determining precisely what he means by such terms and phrases as "ordained of God," "ordinances of God," "ministers of God." What is the true sense of these expressions? Let us see if we can determine

IN WHAT SENSE "THE POWERS THAT BE ARE ORDAINED OF GOD.

It cannot be in the sense, that he requires them to be just what they are, and to do just what they do.

It cannot be in the sense that they *can do no wrong*, commit no sin, and deserve no punishment. It cannot be in any such sense as that kings, counsellors, rulers and magistrates are not *moral agents*, or are in any manner absolved from the common obligations of other men, to love God with their whole heart, to love their neighbors as themselves, to forgive the trespasses of their offenders, to love their enemies, bless those that curse them and do good to them that hate them. It can be in no such sense, as would change the law of God, reverse right and wrong, or screen them from condemnation in anything sinful. It must be in some *general sense*, a sense which implies merely their necessity in the nature of things, and that they are overruled in the providence of God for the good of mankind. In this sense they certainly are ordained of God; and in this sense kings, presidents, governors and rulers are ministers of God, i. e., instruments in the grand economy of his providence for the good of well doers, and the punishment and restraint of evil doers. And this is as true of the most corrupt, perverse, tyrannical rulers, as of the more worthy. It was as true of Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Nero and Robespierre, as of Melchizedec, David, Antoninus and Washington. Hence we must make a great difference between a *consciously* inspired and approved minister of God, and those "ministers of God" that "bear not the sword in vain," that are "a terror to evil doers," and that are "avengers to execute wrath." Because these latter have frequently no consciousness that they are instruments in the divine hand, that he is using them to any holy purpose, or that he approves of their conduct. On the contrary they are frequently conscious of setting

at defiance his law and judgments, and of trampling under foot every thing divine and human which appears to stand in the way of their selfishness, ambition, revenge and lust.

PHARAOH GOD'S MINISTER.

Thus it is written concerning Pharaoh: "For this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, and that my name might be declared through all the earth." But Pharaoh had no consciousness of all this. It entered not into his motives. He acted entirely according to his own perverse and wicked inclinations. And God punished him just as if nothing but evil was to result from his tyrannical reign. Yet in the great providential sense he was "ordained of God," was the servant or minister of God for good to Israel, and for the punishment of the cruel Egyptians. He knew not the use God was putting him to; he intended not the good which he was made to promote; and therefore received according to the evil which he *did* intend. Yet probably the whole human race is now in a better condition for his having oppressed the children of Israel, and thereby hastened their exodus from Egypt. The results have been good, by reason, not of *his* righteous motives, but of an all-wise, overruling providence which made the tyrant unconsciously a minister of its beneficent purposes.

THE MONARCH OF ASSYRIA GOD'S MINISTER.

So was it with the Assyrian government and its monarch. "O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against a hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and

to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so." "Wherefore it shall come to pass, when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon Mount Zion, and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks. For he saith, by the strength of my hand have I done it, and by my wisdom, for I am prudent." "Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it?" Isaiah 10: 5—7, 12—15. Thus was the Assyrian government ordained of God, in the apostle's sense, and the king thereof made to be "God's minister," servant, instrument. He was made to be so, not only without any consciousness, but against his own proud, ambitious and vindictive will. And like Pharaoh before him he was judged according to the evil he intended, and not according to the good which God obliged him, unwittingly, to subserve. He was made a rod of correction to hypocritical Israel, in the divine hand "a terror to evil doers," even while being himself a gigantic evil doer. He "bore not the sword in vain," "howbeit he meant not so." Query. Would this have been a good reason why the prophets and pious portion of Israel should go and connect themselves with his government or army! Yet it was a good reason why they should persevere in declaring the truth, in promoting righteousness, and in patiently awaiting the deliverances of divine providence.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR GOD'S MINISTER.

Nebuchadnezzar affords another instance of the same ordination and overruling of God. "Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, and Nebuchadnez-

zar, my servant, [my minister,] and will bring them against this land," &c. "And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation saith the Lord, for their iniquity," &c., Jer. 25 : 9, 12. Was Nebuchadnezzar *God's minister* for good to Jeremiah and the faithful, but an avenger to execute wrath on the wicked Israelites? Was he one who bore not the sword in vain—and who was a terror to evil doers? Such God made him to be. But was he conscious of it? Was it his motive? Did he work righteousness? Was he not really a very wicked man? Did not God condemn and punish him? Would it have been commendable, in Jeremiah and the upright few among the Jews, to have gone over and become soldiers in his army? They did indeed peaceably go out and surrender to him, and counselled their countrymen to submit to his government, on the very ground that God had determined to humble them for their great national sins, and had in his providence given Nebuchadnezzar power to subdue them. But they never held up the invading monarch as righteous, and approved in the sight of God.

THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT.

If we descend to Paul's time and contemplate the Roman government, its Cæsars and their governors of provinces, should we not be obliged to view them in the same light? We might indeed find many laws, institutions, measures, and particular acts of administration worthy of commendation, which no good man would wish depreciated. But how much of the tyrannical, oppressive, cruel and utterly abominable would rise up before us, to awaken our disgust and abhorrence? What shall we think

of the emperor Nero, under whom Paul, Peter and thousands of Christians were put to death, whose name has become universally infamous for cruelty, persecution and brutality! Yet he was a "minister of God"—"a terror to evil doers,"—"an avenger to execute wrath,"—one who "bore not the sword in vain"—to whom tribute should be paid, honor rendered, and unresisting submission offered. Paul, Peter, and the Christian martyrs, all acted accordingly. And though *he* persecuted them unto death, it was doubtless true, that God in his providence made him, in spite of his wickedness, a minister to them for good; causing all things to work together for good to them, as the true lovers of righteousness. How else shall we understand the apostle's doctrine, or interpret the persecutions inflicted on them by "the powers ordained of God," and by rulers like Nero and his deputies, the "ministers of God?" We cannot for a moment regard these "powers" as approved of God, nor those tyrant monsters as his conscious "ministers," the oracles and conscientious doers of his will. And yet, in the general sense, the great providential sense, all Paul says of them is true. Nor is his declaration of this truth useless or unimportant. It is necessary for the comfort, support and right conduct of Christians amid the uproar, tumult and apparent confusion of governmental affairs. They must see by faith the hand of their Father guiding the helm of events, restraining the wrath of man, and overruling the most powerful agencies of human society for good. Otherwise they would often despair of the world's redemption, and be thrown into the foaming currents of retaliation, revolution, violence and war. But now they may do their duty without fear, in full confidence that "the Lord God omnipotent reigneth" in right-

eousness over all governments, monarchs, kings, rulers, and magistrates; judging them according to their own proper motives and works, but overruling their most perverse doings for the particular good of the just, and the general good of the universe.

ASPECTS WHEREIN GOVERNMENT IS ORDAINED OF GOD.

I come then to the following conclusion: 1. That government of some sort supplies a fundamental want of human nature, and must exist wherever men exist. In this respect it is ordained of God. 2. That human governments *de facto* are barbarisms, corruptions, perversions and abuses of the true government *de jure*, which God through Christianity aims to establish among mankind; and are therefore the nearest approaches which the mass of men in their present low moral condition are capable of making to the true ideal. In this respect government is ordained of God. 3. That the worst of governments are preferable to absolute anarchy—being the least of two evils, and rendering the condition of man on the whole more tolerable. In this respect "the powers that be are ordained of God." 4. That human governments generally proclaim and sanction some great truths and duties, execute some justice, and intentionally maintain more or less wholesome order; that they are in many respects positively good in motive and deed, thus far conforming to the divine government. In this respect they are ordained of God. 5. Wherein human governments and their administrators are fundamentally tyrannical, selfish, oppressive, persecuting, unprincipled and morally abhorrent, they are overruled in the hand of God, as unwitting instrumentalities for the punishment and restraint of violence, and for quickening and purifying the moral sense of the righteous, to superinduce in them a holier, more

devoted and mightier activity in the great work of human reformation. In this respect the powers that be are ordained of God, and rulers are ministers of God for good to the just, but of wrath to the children of wrath. Therefore Christians are to respect, submit, and render homage to the governments and rulers under whom they live, however anti-Christian and even persecuting; taking care to obey them in all well-doing, to conform to their requirements in all matters not conflicting with the divine requirements, differing from them as peaceably as possible, suffering their wrongs patiently in hope, withstanding them only for righteousness' sake in things absolutely sinful, and *then* enduring their penalties with non-resistant meekness and submission. But at the same time they are to be true to the kingdom of God, faithful in their allegiance to the great law of Christ, never departing from it for the sake of assuming the reins of any human government, or obtaining its honors, emoluments, advantages, approbation or protection. If they can enter into any government and carry their Christianity with them unadulterated and untrammelled, let them enter. If not, it is their imperative duty to remain out of it, peaceable, unoffending subjects. Their mission is a higher and nobler one than that of the wordly politician, statesman or ruler. They must not desert, betray or dishonor it. If they continue faithful they will gradually draw up human government to the divine standard. If they lower themselves down, by renouncing or compromising their principles, for the sake of participating in any fundamentally anti-Christian government, hoping thereby to elevate the moral tone of such government, they will infallibly be disappointed They will sink themselves, and with them the government will sink still lower than

before. They must everlastingly insist on the principles and precepts of Jesus Christ; and whatever will not come to those, leave to its own genius and doom. God will take care of all the rest. "For there is no power but of God," and subject to his own sovereign disposal. The Christian has nothing to care for but to be a *Christian indeed*, allowing himself never to be transformed into any thing, or committed to any undertaking essentially inconsistent with his sublime profession.

If I have taken a correct view of this important, but difficult subject, I have fairly removed the pending objection, so far as it rests on the 13th chapter of Romans, and similar passages. I am confident this view is substantially correct; and I do not believe the opposers of Christian non-resistance can give any other view which will harmonize decently, either with the plain tenor of the Scriptures, or with their own doctrine, respecting the nature and functions of civil government. It remains only that I touch on that part of the objection which asserts that Paul in certain cases resorted to human government, idolatrous, warlike and despotic as it then was, to secure immunity, protection and justice.

PAUL'S CONDUCT IN RELATION TO GOVERNMENT.

This is a misapprehension, or at least a false view of the facts. Did Paul ever commence a prosecution at law for the redress of injuries perpetrated on his person, property or rights? Did he ever apply to the civil or military authorities for personal protection, when at large, pursuing his usual avocations? Never. Such a case is not on record. The cases cited all occurred when he was a prisoner, in charge of the government officers. The first instance is mentioned Acts 16: 37. Paul and Silas had

been thrown into prison and cruelly beaten by order of the magistrates of Phillippi. The next morning those magistrates sent directions to the jailor to let them go. "But Paul said unto them, they have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay, verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out." The result was, that the magistrates, knowing that they had proceeded unlawfully, were glad to acknowledge their error, and discharge the prisoners in an honorable manner. This was all Paul demanded. He and Silas had done nothing, even according to the laws of the land, to merit such vile treatment; and knowing that they had a right, as Roman citizens, to redress, they meant that the magistrates and the public should understand the facts. They however brought no action for redress, but were content to forgive their injuries, if only they might be regarded as the injured party, and as such reputably discharged. This is just what every Non-Resistant ought to do under like circumstances. It would have been unworthy of the gospel, for Paul and Silas to have crept off in a private manner, leaving the people to infer that they were culprits, allowed to escape by mere indulgence. Christianity is as bold, faithful, and heroic in asserting its rights, and sustaining its just reputation, as it is non-resistant in respect to returning injury for injury. It is never mean and skulking, but always open, frank, dignified and godlike.

The next instance cited is mentioned in the 22d chapter of Acts. The Jews had raised a mob, and rushed on Paul to kill him. While they were cruelly beating him, the chief captain came upon them with his soldiers, and made Paul his prisoner, causing him to be bound

with two chains, and to be conducted to the castle. Having reached the stairs of the castle, he asked permission to address the excited multitude. He was permitted, and was heard for a short time with great attention. But on declaring that God had commissioned him to preach the gospel to the Gentiles, the whole throng broke out into the most furious invectives, saying, "Away with such a fellow from the earth; for it is not fit that he should live. And as they cried out, and cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air, the chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him." This was an extraordinary state of things. An innocent man falsely accused and maliciously assailed by a crowd of bigoted and ferocious Jews, solely on account of his Christianity, was about to be cruelly scourged, to extort a confession of some suspected secret. Paul, being a free born Roman citizen, and knowing himself privileged by that single fact from such gross outrage, demanded, as they were binding him with thongs—"Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?" This stayed the proceedings instantly. "Take heed," said the centurion to the chief captain, "what thou doest: for this man is a Roman." "Tell me, art thou a Roman?" said the captain. Paul said, Yea. The captain answered—"With a great sum obtained I this freedom." "But I was free born," replied the prisoner. "Then straightway they departed from him, which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him." Here was one remarkable excellency of the Roman law and authority:—a Roman citizen must be treat-

ed with a certain degree of respect, and fairly heard in his own defence, even though guilty of great crimes. He must be regularly condemned before being subjected to the treatment of a felon. This was nothing but a dictate of plain justice and common sense. But observe, Paul had not recently gone and purchased his privilege of Roman citizenship, in order to provide against such contingencies as these. He was "free born." All he did was to remind those who were about to violate the Roman law by scourging him uncondemned, of his rights. He threatens nothing; he only throws them upon their own responsibility. It was his right and privilege to be dealt with civilly, till fairly tried. He pleaded his rights in the most unassuming manner possible, and left those who had his person in their power, to act for themselves. How just, how honorable, how meek, how noble, how non-resistant was his conduct! There is nothing in it which any non-resistant, in like circumstances, might not and ought not to copy.

The next instance followed soon after. It is recorded in the 23d chapter of Acts. Paul still a prisoner in the castle, had received a partial hearing before the chief priests and their council. Meantime forty of his most violent enemies banded together under oath not to eat or drink till they had killed him. To find an opportunity for their deadly assault, they agreed to request the chief captain to bring Paul again before the council for further hearing; intending while he was imperfectly guarded to rush upon him and effect their purpose. Paul's sister's son, getting knowledge of this conspiracy, communicated it to his uncle, who, thereupon called one of the centurions, and said: "Bring this young man unto the chief captain, for he hath a certain thing to tell him." The

young man did his errand to the chief captain, who kindly sent him away under a charge of silence respecting the matter. To prevent bloodshed and all further violence, the chief captain ordered four hundred and sixty of his soldiers to convey Paul during the night to Cesarea, to Felix the governor. Thus was the threatened mischief avoided. This is what some understand to be Paul's application for a military force to protect his person. Did Paul apply for protection? Did he demand a military escort? Did he ask anything, or recommend any thing, except barely that the centurion would conduct his nephew to the chief captain, that he might communicate his message? No, nothing. He was a helpless prisoner, guarded by the chief captain's soldiers. It was the duty of that officer to afford him such personal protection as was due to all Roman citizens. Paul knew from his preceding conduct, that the chief captain was desirous of discharging his duty according to law. He was apprised of the deadly conspiracy formed against him. Had he been his own man, non-resistance would have admonished him to escape the danger by flight. But he was a prisoner. He was to be brought within reach of his foes, under treacherous pretences of a desire to give him a further hearing, and then murdered in spite of his Roman guard. What could he, or ought he to have done, either to save his own life, or pay proper respect to the chief captain, less than to cause the simple facts to be communicated? Nothing. It was his duty. He would have been most criminal had he done otherwise. He meditated no counter attack on the guilty. He sought no means of punishing them. He counselled no measures of violence. He recommended nothing, threatened nothing, demanded nothing. He caused the proper

information to be conveyed to the captain, and meekly left all to his discretion. And the captain proved his good sense, as well as pacific disposition, by so disposing of the prisoner as to prevent all violence and danger. In all this matter Paul acted just as any Christian non-resistant, in such circumstances, should act most unexceptionably.

His "*appeal to Cæsar*" followed in the train of these events. It is mentioned in the 25th chapter. What was the nature and design of that appeal? He had been falsely accused, subjected to a long imprisonment, and partly tried for heresy and sedition. His trial was still pending after a two years delay of justice. Festus, the new governor, found Paul still in bonds. The high priest and chief of the Jews, now moved their suit afresh and requested that Paul might be sent to Jerusalem—"lying in wait in the way to kill him." But not succeeding in this plot, the Jews went down to Cesarea to renew their accusations before the governor's judgment seat. Paul reaffirmed his innocence of all their charges, and nothing could be made out against him. Festus, the governor, "willing to do the Jews a pleasure, asked Paul if he would "go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things." "Then said Paul, I stand at Cæsar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged; to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest. For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof they accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Cæsar." How noble and Christian like this appeal! Jerusalem was no place for an impartial trial. It was only adding insult to injury, to propose under such circumstances

pretexts, to take him back among those prejudiced and blood thirsty men. If he must be further tried, he claimed his privilege to appear before a higher and more impartial court—to go to Rome. God had directed him in a vision to do so, for the purpose of proclaiming the gospel in that great city. His defence was in fact nothing but the defence of the gospel. He therefore appealed to Cæsar. He was not the accuser, but the accused. He had not come into court to complain of and procure the punishment of his enemies. He was not the prosecutor in this case; but a prisoner, falsely accused, detained in bonds unjustly, and now laid under the necessity of going to Jerusalem or to Rome for the conclusion of his trial. He might have his choice; it was his acknowledged privilege; and he availed himself of it as a duty to the cause of Christ, no less than as a right. And in this, as in the other instances, he acted just as he ought to have acted—just as any Christian non-resistant would be bound to act. Neither of the cases cited implies the slightest inconsistency of conduct with the doctrine to which they are brought as objections.

CONCLUSION.

Having thus thoroughly canvassed all the important objections to my doctrine, which I recollect ever to have seen presented out of the Scriptures, I may now confidently appeal to the understanding and conscience of the Christian reader for a favorable verdict. Have I not triumphantly demonstrated that the Holy Scriptures teach the doctrine of non-resistance as defined in the first chapter of this work? Have I not fairly answered the objections urged from the Scriptures against it? Is there any doctrine or duty taught in the Bible, which

can be sustained by more convincing testimony? Or that can be more satisfactority freed from objections? It seems to me that candid minds, after seriously investigating the subject, can come to no other conclusion. I know that it is a momentous conclusion, drawing after it the most radical change of views, feelings, conduct and character throughout Christendom and the world which can well be imagined. But will it not be a most glorious and salutary revolution? When all who sincerely reverence the Bible, as in any sacred sense the word of God to mankind, shall contemplate the Old Testament as the prophecy and preparative of the new, pointing forward to the perfect development of moral excellence under the reign of Jesus Christ; when they shall see in *his* precepts, examples and spirit a perfect manifestation of the divine wisdom and goodness; and shall feel that his righteousness, imbibed into the hearts and exhibited in the lives of mankind, is the only remedy for all the world's disorders!

"Fly swifter round, ye wheels of time,
And bring the welcome day."

CHAPTER IV.

NON-RESISTANCE NOT CONTRARY TO NATURE.

Nature and the laws of nature defined—Self-preservation, the first law of nature—What is the true method of self-preservation?—Demurrer of the objector—The objector still persists, analogy of the animals—Common method of self-preservation certainly false—Five great laws of human nature considered—These laws radically harmonious—Non-Resistance in perfect unison with these laws—A law of *universal* nature, like begets its like—General illustrations in common life—Special illustrations; 1, Subdued pride and scorn; 2, The man whose temper was broken; 3, The colored woman and the sailor; 4, The hay makers; 5, The two students; 6, Two neighbors and the manure; 7, Impounding the horse; 8, Two neighbors and the hens; 9, Henry and Albert; 10, The subdued hatter; 11, The revolutionary soldier; 12, Ex-President Jefferson and the cooper's shop; 13, Wm. Ladd and his neighbor Pulsifer—Conclusion.

The opposers of Non-Resistance with one voice confidently assert that it is contrary to the known laws of Nature, and therefore must be false, however plausibly defended from the Scriptures. It is the design of the present chapter to refute this confident assertion, and to demonstrate that Christian non-resistance is in perfect accordance with the laws of Nature considered in all their developments. I shall endeavor to do this with arguments sustained by numerous facts and illustrations drawn from real life.

NATURE AND THE LAWS OF NATURE DEFINED.

What is "Nature?" and what are "the laws of Nature?" These terms are in very common use with a certain class of persons. But they are more flippantly uttered than definitely understood. Doubtless they may properly be used with considerable latitude of meaning. In the present discussion, however, we must be definite and clear. I shall, therefore, take the term "Nature" to mean—*the essential constituent elements, properties, qualities and capabilities of any being or thing.* The aggregate of these is the *nature* of any being or thing, whether the particular being or thing considered be ever so simple, or ever so complex. Whatever, in or about a being or thing, is not an *essential* constituent element, property, quality or capability thereof, is not an absolute *necessary* of it. And what is not generally an absolute necessary of a being or thing, is not a part of its *nature*, but merely an incidental or factitious appendage. Take human nature, as that particular division of Universal Nature which we must consider in this discussion. There are elements, properties, qualities and capabilities *essential* to the constitution of a human being. These are common to the race. We may say of them in general that they are the absolute inherent necessaries of man—i. e. his *nature.* But there are many incidental and factitious elements, properties, qualities and capabilities in and about individuals and communities of the human race, which are the results of causes and circumstances, either temporary and transient in their operations, or ultimately removable by human efforts. None of these are the essential constituents of human nature. They may all be reversed or removed without annihilating or

perverting nature. Let this be well understood. Next, "the laws of nature." I understand the laws of nature to be, those forms, modes or methods according to which it necessarily operates in its various developments. When any tendency or action of nature is observed to be uniform under given circumstances throughout the sphere of our knowledge, we infer that a certain law or necessity governs it. Consequently, we speak of all things as governed by some law of nature. What to us is uniform and universal, or nearly so, we regard as the result of nature's laws—a certain *necessity* of tendency and development, which determines the form, mode, or method of its manifestation. These laws are at best but imperfectly understood, and are oftener talked about than well conceived of. They are only secondary causes in a vast chain incomprehensible to finite minds, and which we vaguely trace to a Supreme First Cause—the Self-Existent Divine Nature -- God. What we can with any propriety assume to know of those undefinable *some things*, termed "the laws of nature," is only the uniformity and universality of their results within the narrow sphere of our observation, It becomes us therefore to be humble and modest in pronouncing on these laws. We know some things perhaps beyond possibility of mistake. Many other things we know partially and imperfectly; concerning which it is our besetting weakness to presume that we know a vast deal more than we really do. Of the great whole we know comparatively next to nothing. Of the whole, even of those natures concerning which we know most, we are extremely ignorant,--as a few thousand years of existence and continued observation would no doubt convince us. But let us reason as well as we

can from what we know, and learn what we may in the great future.

SELF-PRESERVATION THE FIRST LAW OF NATURE.

It is reiterated that "self-preservation is the first law of nature." I grant it, and then what follows? "Self-defence against whatever threatens destruction or injury," says the opponent. I grant it, and what next follows? "Generally mutual personal conflict, injury, and, in extremities, *death*. Hence there are justifiable homicides, wars, injuries and penal inflictions. Nature impels them. Her law of self-preservation necessitates them. They are *right* in the very nature of things; and therefore non-resistance must be as *wrong*, as it is impracticable. It is contrary to nature, and cannot be brought into practice." Let us examine these bold assertions. I have granted that "self-preservation is the first law of nature." Also that this law prompts to self-defence against whatever threatens destruction or injury. I also admit the fact that generally men, in common with the lower animals, fight, injure, and frequently slay each other in self-defence, or for something supposed to be necessary to self-preservation. In granting this last, I only grant that men are generally very foolish and wicked.

WHAT IS THE TRUE METHOD OF SELF-PRESERVATION.

For it remains to be seen whether this *general* method of self-preservation be the *true* method. Whether it be not a very bad method. Whether it be not a method which absolutely defeats its own designed object. Let us inquire. If it be the true method, it must on the whole work well. It must preserve human life and secure mankind against injury, more certainly and effectually than any other possible method. Has it done this

I do not admit it. How happens it that, according to the lowest probable estimate, some fourteen thousand millions of human beings have been slain by human means, in war and otherwise? Here are enough to people eighteen planets like the earth with its present population. What inconceiveable miseries must have been endured by these worlds of people and their friends, in the process of those murderous conflicts which extinguished their earthly existence! Could all their dying groans be heard and their expiring throes be witnessed at once, by the existing generation of men; could their blood flow together into one vast lake, mingled with the tears of their bereaved relatives; could their corpses be seen piled up in one huge pyramid; or their skeletons be contemplated in a broad golgotha, would it be deemed conclusive evidence that mankind had practised the true method of self-preservation!! Would it encourage us still to confide in and pursue the same method? Would it suggest no inquiries, whether there were not "a more excellent way?" Should we not be impelled to conclude that this method was the offspring of a purblind instinct—the cherished salvo of ignorance—the fatal charm of deluded credulity—the *supposed preserver*, but the *real destroyer* of the human family? If this long-trusted method of self-preservation be indeed the best which nature affords to her children, their lot is most deplorable. To preserve what life has been preserved at such a cost, renders life itself a thing of doubtful value. If only a few thousands, or even a few millions, had perished by the two edged sword; if innocence and justice and right had uniformly triumphed; if aggression, injustice, violence, injury and insult, after a few dreadful experiences, had been overawed; if gradually the world had come into wholesome

order—a state of truthfulness, justice and peace; if the sword of self-defence had frightened the sword of aggression into its scabbard, there to consume in its rust; then might we admit that the common method of self-preservation was the true one. But now we have ample demonstration that *they who take the sword, perish with the sword.* Is it supposable that if no injured person or party, since the days of Abel, had lifted up a deadly weapon, or threatened an injury against an offending party, there would have been a thousandth part of the murders and miseries which have actually taken place on our earth? Take the worst possible view; resolve all the assailed and injured into the most passive non-resistants imaginable, and let the offenders have unlimited scope to commit all the robberies, cruelties and murders they pleased; would as many lives have been sacrificed, or as much real misery have been experienced by the human race, as have actually resulted from the general method of self-preservation, by personal conflict, and resistance of injury with injury? He must be a bold man who affirms it. The truth is, man has stood in his own light. He has frustrated his own wishes. He has been deceived, deluded, betrayed, and all but destroyed, by his own self conceited, evil imagination. He would not be taught of God. He would have his own way. He would be a fool, a spendthrift, a murderer and a suicide. Yet his Father still calls after him. He offers to make him wise, good and happy. He offers to teach him the true method of self-preservation. It is found in the non-resistance of Jesus Christ. But he is wretchedly wedded to his old idols, and will scarcely hear the voice of his only true friend. When he will hear, he shall live.

A DEMURRER OF THE OBJECTOR.

Judged of by its fruits the common and much vaunted method of self-preservation, by injurious resistance, stands hopelessly condemned. "But," says the opponent, "you have judged it unjustly. You have charged upon it the destruction of fourteen thousand millions of human lives. It is not answerable for a tythe of all this. It is answerable only for the loss of life, &c. in cases of justifiable homicide, war, injury and penal infliction. All the rest is chargeable on the murderous wickedness of wanton aggressors. Nor do you give it credit for the lives it has actually preserved, and the injuries it has prevented." Answer. I do not charge *injurious resistance* with causing all these murders; but I do charge it with *occasioning* most of them, and above all with being no adequate preventive of them,—with not being the true method of self preservation. It may have preserved many lives, and prevented much injury in particular cases, in certain localities, but what has it done on the whole—on the great scale? And what has it absolutely failed to do? It has absolutely failed to preserve human life to any great extent, and to give peace to the world. The whole world is in arms, after nearly six thousand years close adherence to this method of self preservation. It costs the human race more to maintain the various means of this method, than for religion, government, and education together. There must be a delusion somewhere. If there were no such method in operation, the worst that could happen would be the murders, oppressions, and cruelties of unprovoked aggression. These would be dreadful enough; but they would be nothing in comparison with the results heretofore experienced, and would gradually shrink away from the moral majesty of a renovated pub-

lic sentiment. Besides, it must be remembered that justifiable homicide, war, injury, &c. are pleaded on all sides with equal earnestness. After a few passes with the sword, a few rounds of musketry, a few assaults and retreats, it is all self-defence—all justifiable homicide, violence and destruction. All parties are seeking only to conquer an honorable peace. One party has been wronged in point of honor, another in person, another in property, and another in imagination; all are standing on the defensive; all are for carrying out the first law of nature by the common method. There is no ultimate arbiter but the sword. Injury must be resisted with injury. There was a first aggression, but so many mutual wrongs have succeeded between the parties, that none but God can determine which is most culpable. This is the confusion which attends the operation of the general method of self-preservation. It professes to eschew all aggression, but invariably runs into it. It promises personal security, but exposes its subjects not only to aggravated assaults, but to every species of danger, sacrifice and calamity. It shakes the fist, brandishes the sword, and holds up the rod in terrorem to keep the peace, but constantly excites, provokes, and perpetuates war. It has been a liar from the beginning. It has been a satan professing to cast out satan, yet confirming the power and multiplying the number of demons which possess our unfortunate race. It does not conduce to self-preservation, but to self destruction, and ought therefore to be discarded.

THE OBJECTOR STILL PERSISTS—ANALOGY OF THE ANIMALS.

But our opponent will not yield the point. "It is the nature (says he) of all animals to fight for their lives and their rights. It is the nature of man to do so. He is a fighting character by the laws of his being. He al-

ways was so, and always will be, while there is aggression, assault and abuse in the world. When all men are willing to leave off giving just cause of injurious resistance, there will be peace; never before. You may make the common method of self-preservation good or bad, a blessing or a curse, better than nothing or worse than nothing; man will resist—will fight—will act out his nature, cost what it may." Answer. Not so. You assume too much. Your argument goes too far. Can I not prove by your own reasoning that man is an aggressor, an assailant, an offender, a robber and a murderer by nature? He has been practising all this aggression like some of the lower animals—the beasts and birds of prey—ever since the time of Cain. Is this a law of his nature, as well as the other? Because he always has done these things, will he, and *must* he forever continue doing them? You say injurious resistance, war and bloodshed will never cease till aggression ceases. Will aggression *ever* cease? *Can* it ever cease? Is it not a necessary result of the laws of nature? What is the conclusion from such premises, but this,—that man's nature obliges him to aggress and resist just as he does, and there is no hope that he will ever cease doing either. None but an atheist ought to put forth such arguments. I deny that there is any law or necessity of nature obliging man to *injure* his fellow man, either offensively or defensively; any more than there is for his being a drunkard, offensive or defensive, to everlasting ages. He can cease to practice both. He can be cured of his war mania. He can be induced to abstain from committing injury by aggression, and also from committing it in the way of resistance. The question is, whether we shall preach non-resistance to the good, as well as non-aggression to the bad; or

whether we shall insist only on non-aggression, leaving the comparatively good to resist injury with injury, so long as aggression shall continue. The good wish the bad to reform. Will they return good for evil, and thereby hasten their reform? or will they return evil for evil, and thereby frustrate that reform? God has ordered the work begun and prosecuted from both ends at once; the bad to cease *aggressive* injury, and the good *defensive* injury. Which shall take the lead in the great work of reform? Shall the good wait till the bad cease from aggression, before they leave off inflicting injury in self-defence? Christianity says no. It bids them be "the salt of the earth," and "the light of the world;" to suffer wrong rather than do wrong, "to overcome evil with good." Is this possible? Or is there some irresistible necessity in the laws of nature, compelling mankind to maintain an endless conflict of aggression and resistance? I deny that there is any such necessity.

COMMON METHOD OF SELF-PRESERVATION CERTAINLY FALSE.

It is plain from the foregoing discussion, that the general method of self-preservation by injurious and deadly resistance to aggression, is a *false* method; that it has failed; that it has defeated its own designed object; that it has constantly run into the very wrongs it aimed to prevent; that it has made a bad matter incomparably worse; that it is not the dictate of absolute nature, but a deplorable mistake of the human judgment as to ways and means; and that some other method must be substituted for it. It is equally plain that *nature necessitates* aggression as certainly as it does injurious resistance to aggression; that in fact it necessitates neither; and that *non-resistance*, as I have defined it, is no more *contrary* to nature than *non-aggres-*

sion. Both aggressive and resistant injury can be unlearned, abandoned and forever exchewed, without annihilating or perverting any essential constituent, element, property, quality or capability of human beings. More than this, men brought up to that moral excellency will be more thoroughly and perfectly men than in any inferior state. Their whole nature, physical, mental, moral and religious, will then be more symmetrically and gloriously developed than now. If so, non-resistance cannot be contrary to nature. Nor, if embraced and carried into practice, will it fail to ensure the most universal and complete self-preservation. It will prove to be the true method demanded by that first great law of nature.

I now confidently proceed with the assertion that Christian non-resistance is in perfect accordance with the known laws of nature, and absolutely necessary to harmonize their developments by correcting the untoward influence of many evil circumstances under which they have heretofore acted.

FIVE GREAT LAWS OF HUMAN NATURE CONSIDERED.

Let us bring into view the prominent laws of human nature. I will mention five of the most fundamental: They are self-preservation, social affinity, religious and moral obligation, rational harmony and progression. These may be pronounced universal and eternal. Under the law of self-preservation, which is substantially identical with self-love, man instinctively desires to exist and be happy. He dreads death; he guards against injury; he endeavors to keep what good he already has, and in a thousand ways strives to acquire more. He is constantly prompted by this law to take care of himself, and ensure his supposed highest welfare. But the *ways*

and means are neither dictated nor indicated by this law. These come from another law. Hence it not unfrequently happens that men ignorantly resort to ways and means of preserving and benefitting themselves, which frustrate their object, and even result in their destruction. Under the law of social affinity the sexes unite, families are reared up, friendships contracted, communities, states and nations formed, and all the social relations, affections, sympathies and bonds superinduced. Man is necessitated by this law to be a social being, and to share the good and ill of life with others. But this law does not necessarily teach him the best method of social action —the true ways and means of the highest social usefulness and enjoyment. Hence he often forms the most unsuitable connections, and contributes to uphold the most perverse social institutions. But a social being, for better or worse he always was, and always must be. Under the law of religious and moral obligation he confesses, worships, and serves a God; feels a sense of dependence gratitude and duty; is conscious that there is right and wrong in human conduct; that he can choose either, but that he is accountable for the choice he makes—for his use or abuse of ability possessed; feels guilty when he does what he supposes to be wrong, and approved when he does what he believes to be right. Hence arises a perpetual conflict between the lower and higher portions of his nature. The carnal or mere animal mind goes for unrestrained indulgence. The *spiritual* continually says, "*do right*, refrain from all else, however ardently desired." His propensities would run riot down the broad road to destruction. But his religious and moral sentiments connect him with God and eternity, and forbid him all sensual indulgence which can endanger his spiritual welfare. He must do the will of God; must deny himself; must

do right at all hazards. He must not even preserve his life, or seek any good for himself by wrong doing. Thus is he checked, straitened, restrained and disciplined. But even this law, grand and powerful as it is, does not at once acquaint him with the true God, nor with the true right and wrong—the perfect righteousness. Hence, millions have worshipped false gods, been superstitiously religious, and verily thought many things were right, which were in fact utterly wrong. Yet man always was, and always must be a religious and moral being, in some way, to some extent. He cannot escape from this law of his nature. Next comes the law of rational harmony or consistency. This ever prompts men to delight in the harmony of things—the consistency and agreement of one thing with another—and of parts of things with their whole. He is uneasy, dissatisfied, disturbed and restless on account of incongruities, contradictions, incompatibilities and hostilities, in himself, and all things around him. Hence his intellectual powers, and specially his reasoning faculties, are constantly on the stretch to detect and remove the causes of disturbance, the points of contradiction. If he can do nothing else, he finds fault, grumbles and complains about this or that presumed evil. If farther advanced, he becomes a reformer, and agitates the world. He may be a reformer in religion, morals, government, education, science, art, or whatever comes in his way—theoretical or practical. And if he cannot construct what *ought to be*, he will at least destroy or modify what ought *not to be*. This restless activity of the human mind comes from a deep, undefinable, irresistible desire to get rid of contradictions, and reduce things to harmony, to consistency. This is the great desideratum. Contradiction and inconsistency is the infallibe indication of falsehood

and wrong. For truth and right must be harmonious. They cannot involve contradiction and discord, where they alone exist. Here then is a universal, irresistible law of our nature. It has done much to correct and reform the errors ensuing from human ignorance and depravity. But it has an infinite deal more *to* do. The fifth law is that of progression. This follows close on the heels of the others, or rather co-exists with them. It is this which impels man to aspire after something higher and better than the present. Hence he observes, imitates, learns, inquires, invents, hopes and perseveres, improves, progresses, and will forever progress amid new wonders, and with new achievements of mind world without end. His nature will not permit him to become stationary.

THESE LAWS RADICALLY HARMONIOUS.

Now all these fundamental laws of our nature must be radically agreeable to each other. There can be no essential incongruity or discord among them. And when they shall have had their perfect work, man must be a lovely and glorious being. The human family must be an affectionate, wise, holy, harmonious, happy family. Look at the legitimate results. The law of self-preservation or self-love will secure its desired object, just when the law of social affinity makes every fellow human being a second self—a co-self—never to be injured. This will take place when the law of religious and moral obligation completely subdues the *propensities* to the *sense of duty*, attaches the soul indissolubly to the true God, and renders *right* identical with the *absolute highest good*. And this will be hastened by the intense workings of the law of rational harmony, which will detect and expose error, reform abuses, revolutionize false

opinions, maxims, institutions, customs and habits, and bring to light in all things the "most excellent way." There is a true God, and this law will never let man rest till he finds him. There is a real right and wrong, the eternal reality; and this law will at length bring all men to see and feel it. There is a consistency, an absolute harmony of things, and this law will turn and overturn till it be attained. All this is attainable under the law of progression. By *this* knowledge will be increased, light will be added to light, truth to truth, and triumph to triumph. Ignorance, error, folly, sin will be left behind. Improvement will follow improvement in all that needs improvement, till the jarring elements be reconciled, and one soft, sweet, supernal harmony consummate the happiness of the whole creation. This is the glorious result to which the declared will of God, the predictions of his holy prophets, and the prayers of saints through all past generations, have ever pointed, and do still look forward. Then will there be no war, no violence, no wrong, no sorrow.

"All crimes shall cease, and ancient fraud shall fail;
Returning Justice lift aloft her scale;
Peace o'er the world her olive wand extend,
And white robed Innocence from heaven descend."

There shall be none to hurt or destroy, for all the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God.

NON-RESISTANCE IN PERFECT UNISON WITH THESE LAWS.

Now, is the doctrine of Christian non-resistance contrary to these general laws of human nature? Is it contrary to the law of self-preservation? Does it propose

to destroy or preserve life; to increase or diminish human injury; to make mankind more miserable, or to render them infinitely more safe, secure and happy? It proposes the very thing which the law of self-preservation demands, viz: the universal inviolability of human life, now held so cheap and sacrificed so recklessly. Is this doctrine contrary to the law of social affinity? The very reverse. It stretches forth the hand of love to the children of men, and entreats them to consider themselves one great brotherhood; to refrain from murdering and persecuting each other, to love one another, to bear every thing of one another sooner than kill or injure each other. Is not this just what the law of social affinity demands? Is the doctrine contrary to the law of religious and moral obligation? It is an integral part of the divine law, declared and exemplified by the Son of God. It is the keystone in the arch of moral obligation. And to fulfil it in practice is the highest obedience to God,—the purest devotion to eternal right. It is putting duty before all things. Is it contrary to the law of rational harmony? Surely not. It eschews all war, all violence, all injury, all social discord, all combatting of wrong with wrong, evil with evil, and lays the only ample foundation, deep on the rock of principle, for the pacification and harmony of the world. If men would only restrain themselves from mutual injury, how soon would they be able to ascertain all important truths, and to correct all essential errors of theory and practice. But now, instead of discussion and argument, brute force rises up to the rescue of discomfited error, and crushes truth and right into the dust. "Might makes right," and hoary folly totters on in her mad career escorted by armies and navies. Is our doctrine contrary to the law of progres-

sion? It is a striking fruit and proof of that law. It takes for granted that man has been a noisy, fretful, buffetted child long enough; that it is time for him to act like a reasonable being; that he *ought* to be, and *can* be governed by moral power; that he has been carnally minded long enough, and ought now to become spiritually minded; that he has quarrelled, fought, and been flogged enough; that he is capable of acting from higher motives and better principles than *resisting evil with evil;* and that he can, if he will only try, "overcome evil with good," and thus approximate the angelic nature. It is emphatically a doctrine of glorious moral and spiritual progress—of progress from barbarism to Christian perfection. Nothing can be more untrue, than that non-resistance is contrary to the laws of nature. It is in perfect accordance with them. It is only contrary to the false, foolish, perverse, self-defeating methods, ways and means by which man, in his ignorance and delusion, has heretofore attempted to execute the dictates of those laws. It is at war with man's ignorance, blind self-will, and vicious habits; but not with his welfare, nor the laws of his nature. As well might the inveterate drunkard, bound to the intoxicating cup by long confirmed habit, plead that total abstinence was contrary to nature. It is in fact this very cup which is contrary to his nature; and though often resorted to for preservation and invigoration, it has crowded him to the brink of an untimely grave. Still he clings to it as his life and health. Just so our drunkards of injurious resistance. They can depend on nothing so confidently as the means of deadly resistance for self-preservation and personal security. They imagine that if they were to renounce these, their

lives, rights and happiness, would have no protection left. But they will one day learn better.

A LAW OF UNIVERSAL NATURE. LIKE BEGETS ITS LIKE.

I will now introduce another law of nature—a law of *universal nature*—and including, of course, human beings in its scope. It is this, that *like must beget its like*—physical, mental, moral, spiritual. Is non-resistance contrary to *this* law of nature? Does it beget its like? or does it beget *resistance?* This is a practical question, and will settle the dispute. Either the true spirit of non-resistance begets a corrresponding spirit, or it begets a violent and pugnacious spirit? Which is it? Either the practice of non-resistance tends to disarm and relax the fury of the assailing party, or to encourage, excite, and confirm him in his attack. Which is it? If the *latter*, it is contrary to that law of nature which necessitates the generation of *like by like*. If the *former*, it harmonizes with that law. And if this be true, it is the very doctrine necessary to fill the world with peace. It is worth while then to ascertain the truth on this point.

Let me commence by asking if the very injury I am endeavoring to get discarded is not generated by injury? Why does the assailed person inflict injury on the offender? "To defend himself," it will be said. But why defend himself by doing injury to the other party? "Because that, and that only, will effect the object." How is this certain? What puts it into the heart or the head of the assailed party to repel injury with injury? It is like begetting its like; injury suggesting, prompting, and producing injury. No better way is thought of or desired, than life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, blow for blow, force for force, injury for injury. I will

do unto him as he hath done to me. It is good enough for him. He shall be paid in his own coin. He shall be taught better after his own fashion." This is the feeling and language of the *Resistant.* Here is a proof that the disposition to injure begets a disposition to injure, and the act of injury induces a counter injury. What, then, will be the subsequent effect? If a man strike me violently, and I return the blow with equal or greater violence, will not my blow call for a third, and so on, till the weaker party cries "hold?" This is the law of nature. Does the opponent plead that the aggressor, being severely repelled, and knowing himself in the wrong, will retreat and learn to be civil. This will depend on *which* of the parties can strike the hardest, and injure the worst. If the aggressor be the stronger party, he will only fight the harder, till his antagonist is subdued. If, however, he be the weaker party, he will yield from *necessity*, and not from *principle*—retaining his impotent revenge in his heart, to fester there till a better opportunity. If justice or conscience have anything to do in restraining him, they would work much more mightily on his soul if the injured party should refuse to strike back at all. So the argument in this case turns wholly in favor of my doctrine.

GENERAL ILLUSTRATIONS IN COMMON LIFE.

Let us now look into the common affairs of life, amid scenes familiar to common experience and observation. We see one man with very large combativeness and feeble counteracting predispositions. If this man meets with another of the same character, he is almost sure to fight, quarrel, or at least, violently dispute. He is surcharged and throws off in all directions a sort of phreno-

magnetic fluid of war. No sooner does he come in contact with another like himself, than they mutually inflame each other. He carries strife and debate and violence with him wherever he goes. Even many, who are usually civil and peaceable, are presently provoked into a combat with him. He magnetises, to a certain extent, every susceptible being with whom he meets. If he can live peaceably with *any*, it is those only who from natural predisposition, or *moral principle*, are *non-resistants* towards him. These he will make uncomfortable; but by bearing with him, and suffering some abuse with patience, they can keep him comparatively decent, and may pass their lives near him without any serious outbreak. Who has not seen some such persons? And who does not know that such can never be cured by violence and injurious resistance. They may be beaten and bruised half to death over and over again, with no other result than to make them two-fold more the children of wrath than before. This kind of evil is not cast out, except by prayer, fasting and abstinence from violence.

Here is another man with overweening self-esteem. He is proud, haughty, disdainful and overbearing in all his ways. What happens when two such meet? Is there not a reciprocal inflammation of the irritable organs? Do they not mutually swell, defy, and repel each other? Each will accuse the other of the same fault, and denounce such haughtiness as intolerable, never once suspecting that it is a reflection of his own face in the other which seems so detestable. Suppose one of these characters to move among other persons ordinarily humble and unassuming. Let him treat them with marked neglect, scorn or indifference; and what will be the effect? Their moderate self-esteem will be excited. Their attitude

will become more perpendicular. Their heads will poise backward, and they will begin to mutter, "he feels himself above common folks; but he shall know that others are *something* as well as himself. We are not to be looked down by his contempt." Whence this sudden rising of self-esteem in their minds? It has been begotten, or at least excited, by the over-charged battery of the magnetiser. *Like* produces its *like*. Reverse the case. Suppose a person of great talents, wealth or weight of personal influence. This character naturally commands great respect; but he is humble, unassuming and particularly respectful to all around: to the poor as well as the rich, the unlearned as well as the learned, and persons in the lower walks of life, as well as those in the higher. How is he beloved and esteemed by the majority of mankind? "He is not proud," says one. "He is not above any one," says another. "I always love to meet him and be with him," says another, "because he is so kind, unassuming and friendly with every body." Even the envious and grumbling are half disarmed when they come in contact with such a person. *Like* begets its *like*, as before.

Yonder is a man excessively given to acquisitiveness. He must always have the best end of a bargain. He must skin something from every one with whom he has dealings, and is sure to get the half cent whenever he "makes change." He is never pleased but when he is feathering his own nest. Yet no man complains of tight people more than he. He seldom meets with a person who in *his* opinion is entirely willing to do unto others as he would be done unto. What is the difficulty? This man's selfishness magnetises those with whom he deals. His acquisiveness excites theirs and they stand up for

their own. They are not going to be shaved by *him*. Theyare determined not to indulge his rapacious avarice. They make it a point not to let him cheat them, filch away their property in a bargain, or extort it in the shape of usury. They even become tenacious about the half cent when they are settling with him. And many who would not otherwise stand for a trifle make it a point not to give him the least advantage. "Let us look out for old hunks," say they. The half cent is nothing, but *he* shall not have it. *Like* produces its *like*. Hence conflicts and resistance. Reverse the character. Suppose a generous whole-souled man, always careful to give large measure and weight, always scrupulous not to exact more than his own, and always sure to throw the trifle into his neighbor's scale, rather than even seem to be small in his own favor. How many of the very same persons observed to be sharp and close with the acquisitive dealer, relax their vigilance, become indifferent about small matters, and even insist that they will not always take the half cent of a man so willing to yield it. Is not this nature in every day life?

It is not so with a blackguard and a reviler. He assails a man with hard words, abusive epithets and reviling expressions. Unless the man be particularly on his guard, or naturally of a very mild disposition, or a well principled non-resistant, he will be excited, and ten to one return a broadside as terrible as he has received. His teeth are set on edge, and his tongue is fired from *beneath*. He rails, abuses, reviles and curses too. But let the true Christian receive this storm of envenomed words, and they strike his shield of self-composure only to rattle for a moment like hailstones on its surface, and then fall harmlessly about his feet. A second and a third

discharge succeed, but he still remains calm. The assailant is half vexed, quite confounded, and soon grows ashamed of himself. He either quits the field, or listens to reason, and perhaps is constrained to beg pardon for his rudeness. At all events he never remembers his abuse of a calm, kind-hearted, firm-minded man, without peculiar mortification. And if every man who occupies a place in the better ranks of society would treat him in the same manner, he would ultimately be entirely cured of the bad humor about his tongue. So true is it that, "a soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger."

These familiar workings of this law of nature ought to open the most unwilling eyes to the fact, that non-resistance, instead of being contrary to nature, is in strict accordance with it. And if it is confessedly the object of good men to do away with violence, cruelty, murder, and all the great crimes which blast the happiness of humanity, they ought to know that it never can be done by rendering evil for evil—injury for injury. *Like must produce its like*, and unless we oppose the injuries of evil-doers with a disposition and treatment the very contrary of theirs, we shall only incite, confirm, and educate their evil hearts to worse and worse conduct. We shall only reproduce manifold the very evils we so strenuously resist. Though the injuries we do them are done only in resistance of aggression, still they follow the same law. They produce their like. They breed a fresh brood of injuries. If this be not strictly true in each individual case, it is true on the great whole. The effect will be produced, directly or indirectly, sooner or later.

SPECIAL ILLUSTRATIONS—FACTS FROM REAL LIFE.

I now propose to offer a series of facts from real life, illustrative of the truths for which I am contending, and in confirmation of my arguments.

SUBDUED PRIDE AND SCORN.

A lady, in one of the neighboring towns to that in which the writer resides, had repeatedly treated a well disposed young man with marked contempt and unkindness. Neither of them moved in the upper circles of society, but the lady, without cause, took numerous occasions to cast reproachful reflections on the young man as beneath her notice, and unfit to be treated with common respect. This lady had the misfortune to meet with a considerable loss in the destruction of a valuable chaise, occasioned by the running away of an untied horse. She had bo · · d the horse and vehicle, and was required to make good the damage. This was a serious draft on her pecuniary resources, and she felt much distressed by her ill fortune. The young man, being of a kind and generous disposition, and determined to return good for evil, instantly set himself about collecting money for her relief. Subscribing liberally himself, and actively soliciting others, he soon made up a generous sum, and before she became aware of his movement, appeared before her and placed his collection modestly at her disposal. She was thunderstruck. He left her without waiting for thanks or commendation. She was entirely overcome, wept like a child, and declared she would never be guilty again of showing contempt, speaking reproachfully of, or treating with un-

kindness, him or any other fellow creature. Was there anything in all this contrary to nature?

THE MAN WHOSE TEMPER WAS BROKEN.

A man of my acquaintance, on hearing some remarks I had made on this subject, observed that he knew, by experience, the doctrine was correct; and though he himself had never practised non-resistance from principle in his general life, he practised it from impulse on one occasion with astonishing success. He was brought up with a childless uncle of his, who was remarkable for violent anger when excited, and for the cruelty with which he beat his cattle, and such boys as he had taken to bring up, whenever they provoked his vengeance. He could bear but little from boy or brute, and, therefore, was a frequent and furious whipper till considerably past the middle age of life. The narrator stated that he was well nigh a man grown, when on a certain occasion he went into the woods with the team, in winter, to sled home fuel. At length, when on their way out of the woods through an unbeaten path, the sled struck some obstacle concealed under the snow, and the team was completely set. The uncle, provoked at this interruption, cried out to his nephew, who held the whip, to drive on and put the cattle through. He shouted, and used the lash to order, but in vain, the sled was fast. "My uncle flew into a most violent rage," said he, "and seizing a club from the load came furiously at me with terrible threats, as the author of the whole mischief. I felt entirely innocent, and for the moment determined I would not further resist my uncle's wrath than to exchange my whip for his club, which was nearly of the

size of a common sled stake. As he rush[illegible]pon me, with uplifted weapon, I firmly grasped [illegible]n one hand, reached out my cart-whip with the other, and said: '*Here*, uncle, you shall not beat me with such a thing—take the whip.' He instantly relinquished the stick of wood, and seizing the cart-whip, beat me outrageously over the head, shoulders and back. He then offered me the whip, exclaiming with stern vehemence,—'now drive that team home!' I calmly but firmly replied, *no;* I have done my best, and shall not try again; drive it yourself, uncle. Upon this he violently assailed the poor oxen, shouting, screaming, and beating them quite as mercilessly as he had me, till he fairly gave out from exhaustion. Pausing for a moment's rest, and coming a little to his reason, he commenced searching for the obstacle, and soon found that a large sized sapling had fallen across the path and become firmly bedded in the subsequent snows. Having ascertained this, he directed me to cut off the trunk, in order to its removal. I commenced, my back and shoulders smarting grievously from their undeserved stripes. When partly through, I looked up at my uncle and said—'uncle, do you feel any better for the cruel beating you have given me?' He looked pale and conscience-stricken, and without a word of reply started for home. I extricated the load, and without further difficulty drove the team to its destination. From that time, sir, my uncle never broke out into his old gusts of passion; never struck, scolded or abused me; never mistreated his cattle; and, going quite to the opposite extreme, suffered himself to be several times almost imposed on by a mischievous lad he had taken to bring up, without inflicting a blow, or even expressing anger. I continued with him

several years, and seeing him, as I thought, grown too lax in correcting the lad just named, I one day asked him what had so entirely changed his conduct? He looked me in the face with a melancholy expression. Said he—'do you remember the cruel flogging I gave you when that load of wood got set in the snow?' *Too well*, answered I. 'That broke my temper,' said he. 'I never had such feelings before. I have never been the same man since. I then solemnly vowed never to strike another cruel blow on man or beast while I lived. And I have scarcely felt a disposition to do so since.' Large tears rolled down his cheeks, and he turned away in silence. Many a time have I thought of that matter, said the nephew, since my uncle has gone to the grave. It convinces me your doctrine is the truth." How does it impress my reader? Does it indicate that non-resistance is contrary to or consonant with the laws of nature?

COLORED WOMAN AND THE SAILOR.

A worthy old colored woman in the city of New York was one day walking along the street, on some errand to a neighboring store, with her tobacco pipe in her mouth, quietly smoking. A jovial sailor, rendered a little mischievous by liquor, came sawing down the street, and, when opposite our good Phillis, saucily crowded her aside, and with a pass of his hand knocked her pipe out of her mouth. He then halted to hear her fret at his trick, and enjoy a laugh at her expense. But what was his astonishment, when she meekly picked up the pieces of her broken pipe, without the least resentment in her manner, and giving him a dignified look of mingled sorrow, kindness and pity, said, "God forgive you, my son, as I do." It touched a tender cord in the heart of the rude tar. He felt ashamed, condemned and repentant.

The tear started in his eye; he must make reparation. He heartily confessed his error, and thrusting both hands into his two full pockets of "*change*," forced the contents upon her, exclaiming, "God bless you, kind mother, I'll never do so again."

THE HAYMAKERS.

Two neighbors were getting hay from adjoining lots of marsh land. One had the misfortune to mire his team and load so as to require aid from the other. He called to him for assistance with his oxen and men. But his neighbor felt churlish, and loading him with reproaches for his imprudent management, told him to help himself at his leisure. With considerable difficulty he extricated his load from the mire and pursued his business. A day or two after, his churlish neighbor met with a similar mishap. Whereupon the other, without waiting for a request, volunteered with his oxen and rendered the necessary assistance. The churl felt ashamed of himself. His evil was overcome by his neighbor's good, and he never afterwards refused him a favor.

THE TWO STUDENTS.

Two students of one of our Universities had a slight misunderstanding. One of them was a warm-blooded Southron. He conceived himself insulted, and began to demand satisfaction, according to Southern notions of honor. He was met with a Christian firmness and gentleness. The other calmly told his excited fellow student he could give only Christian satisfaction in any case; that he was not conscious of having intended him either injury or insult, and that if he could be convinced he had wronged him at all, he was willing to make ample

reparation. The Southron boiled over with chivalrous indignation for a few moments, discharged a volley of reproachful epithets, and threatened to chastise his cowardly insolence. But nothing could move the other's equanimity. Without the slightest indication of fear or servility, he met his opponent's violence with true heroism, declared that they had hitherto been friends, and he meant to maintain his friendly attitude, however he might be treated, and conjured the threatener to consider how unworthy of himself his present temper, language and conduct were. His manner, look, words, tone, had their effect. The flush of anger turned to a blush of shame and compunction. The subdued Southron stepped frankly forward, reached forth his trembling hand, and exclaimed—"*I have spoken and acted like a fool; can you forgive me?*" "With all my heart," was the cordial response. Instantly they were locked in each other's embrace; reconciliation was complete; and they were evermore fast friends. The substance of this anecdote was given by a worthy minister of the Baptist persuasion, after one of my lectures on non-resistance; and I think he represented himself as a witness of the scene.

TWO NEIGHBORS AND THE MANURE.

Two of my former neighbors had a slight controversy about a few loads of manure. One of them was the other's tenant. The lessor had distinctly stipulated to reserve all the manure of the stable, and had offset it with certain privileges and favors to the lessee. But as the lessee had purchased and consumed from abroad a considerable amount of hay, he claimed a portion of the manure. He proposed leaving the case to the arbitration of certain worthy neighbours. The other declined all

reference to a third party, alleging that they both knew what was right, and ought to settle their difficulties between themselves. But the lessee contrived to have a couple of peaceable neighbors at hand one day, and in their presence renewed with earnestness his proposal to leave out the case to their decision. The other, grieved at his pertinacity, promptly replied: "I have nothing to leave out; I have endeavored to do as I agreed, and to treat you as I would be treated. God Almighty has planted something in all our breasts which tells us what is right and wrong: if you think it right to carry off that manure, do so just when you please; and I pledge myself never to trouble you with even a question about the matter again." This was effectual. The tenant felt his error; all was quiet; the claim expired at the bar of conscience; and non-resistant kindness and decision healed all contention. This was related to me by one of the friends selected as a judge and decider in the case. His peculiar comment was "*That was one of the greatest sermons I ever heard.*"

IMPOUNDING THE HORSE.

"A man approached his neighbor in great anger one afternoon, saying—Sirrah! I found your horse loose in the road this morning, and put him in the pound, where he now is. If you want him, go and pay the fees and take him out. And I give you notice now, that just as often as I find him loose in the highway, I will impound him at your cost. And I, said the neighbor, looking out of my window, this morning, saw your cows in my cornfield. I drove them all out, and turned them into your pasture. I now give you notice that as often as I find

them in my cornfield, *I will do just so again.* The first was humbled, reconciled, sent to the pound, paid the fees, and restored his neighbor's horse to him with an honorable apology for his ill temper."—*Anonymous.*

TWO NEIGHBORS AND THE HENS.

A man in New Jersey told Henry C. Wright the following story respecting himself and one of his neighbors: "I once owned a large flock of hens; I generally kept them shut up. But, one spring, I concluded to let them run in my yard, after I had clipped their wings, so they could not fly. One day, when I came home to dinner, I learned that one of my neighbors had been there, full of wrath, to let me know my hens had been in his garden, and that he had killed several of them, and thrown them over into my yard. I was greatly enraged because he had killed my beautiful hens that I valued so much. I determined at once to be revenged, to sue him, or in some way get redress. I sat down and ate my dinner as calmly as I could. By the time I had finished my meal, I became more cool, and thought that perhaps is was not best to fight with my neighbor about hens, and thereby make him my bitter, lasting enemy. I concluded to try another way, being sure that it would be better.

After dinner I went to my neighbor's. He was in his garden. I went out and found him in pursuit of one of my hens with a club, trying to kill it. I accosted him. He turned upon me, his face inflamed with wrath, and broke out in a great fury—'You have abused me. I will kill all your hens, if I can get at them. I never was so abused. My garden is ruined.' I am very sorry for it, said I. I did not wish to injure you, and now see that I have made a great mistake in letting out my hens.

I ask your forgiveness, and am willing to pay you six times the damage.

The man seemed confounded. He did not know what to make of it. He looked up at the sky—then down at the earth—and then at the poor hen he had been persuing, and said nothing. Tell me now, said I, what is the damage, and I will pay you six-fold; and my hens shall trouble you no more. I will leave it entirely to you to say what I shall do. I cannot afford to lose the love and good will of my neighbors, and quarrel with them, for hens or anything else.

'*I am a great fool!*' said the neighbor. The damage is not worth talking about; and I have more need to compensate you than you me, and to ask your forgiveness than you mine."—*Wright's Kiss for a Blow.*

HENRY AND ALBERT.

"I write chiefly to give you an account of the power of love that took place in the family of an old friend of mine, who is now no more. Besides other children he left two sons, Henry, aged about twenty, and Albert about sixteen. The latter possessed what is called a bad, ungovernable temper, that gave his mother much trouble; and she (probably in a pet) told Henry he must whip him. He did; but Albert resisted, and he received a severe thrashing. But it did not tame him at all, and he vowed that he never would speak to Henry again until he was old enough to have revenge. While he stayed at home (some months, I believe,) he never spoke to Henry. After this he went to sea, and was absent four or five years. But Albert was a boy of many good qualities. He laid up money; and while the vessel was loading and unloading at the ports of the distant countries

he visited, he made short excursions into the interior, and made use of his eyes and ears to improve his mind and gain what information he could, and came back an amazingly stout, athletic young man, and apparently greatly improved. He was frank and social with the rest of the family, but not a word did he say to Henry. The latter by this time had become a Methodist preacher, and Albert's conduct towards him grieved him to the heart. After a time Henry went to Albert, and with tears in his eyes, said to him: 'Albert, I cannot possibly live in this way any longer. Your silence I cannot bear another hour. You remember you said, when you had whipped me you would speak to me again; I am now ready to receive your punishment. Let us go to the barn; I will pull off my coat—I promise you that I will make no resistance, and you may whip me as long as you please; and we will then be friends. I never should have struck you, if mother had not requested it. I am sorry that I did.' Albert's stout heart could bear blows in almost any quantity without shrinking, but Henry's love he could not withstand. It melted his proud spirit instantly, and in a moment he was bathed in tears. They embraced each other directly. For a time their love was too great for utterance, but soon Albert expressed his regret for what he had said; and they are now, for aught that I know, two as loving brothers as any in the county. And to God, the God of peace, be all the glory.—*Letter from Alfred Wells in the Practical Christian.*

THE SUBDUED HATTER.

Some nineteen or twenty years ago, when I was in the hatting business, I employed a man by the name of Jonas Pike, from Massachusetts, who was a most excellent workman in the manufacture of hats. But he was one

of that kind of journeymen who would have their trains, as they were familiarly called amongst us in that day. Therefore as a natural consequence he was without comfortable clothing the most of the time. After he got a shop he would work very industriously until he had earned from twenty to thirty, and sometimes forty dollars worth of clothing; (for he was always in want of clothing when he commenced work;) and then he would get on one of his trains, and dispose of every article of his clothing that would fetch six cents, expending all for whiskey. When all was gone, and he began to cool off a little, he would be very ugly; sometimes he would fret and scold, and then he would coax and plead, to have me trust him a hat or something else, that he might sell, and thereby get more whiskey. When I refused him, he would become very angry and threaten to whip me, which I told him he might do as soon as he pleased. But said he: 'I will not do it in your own shop; if I had you out of doors I would thrash you like a sack.' After hearing him repeat these sayings several times, I walked out at the door. I then spoke to him, saying, I am now out of the shop, thou canst whip me if thou wishest to so very much; at which he stepped out of the shop, came furiously towards me, squaring himself for a box, and struck me a blow on the breast, at which I put my hand upon my cheek, and held it down to him, saying, now strike here Jonas. He now looked at me with surprise and astonishment, then turning round saying at the same time, 'd—n you, if you will not fight, I will let you alone.' He went into the shop, sat down and was quiet. He got sober and went to work, and ever after was affectionate and kind, and very peaceable with me. I employed him several times afterwards to work for me, and

he was always very peaceable and obliging.—*Letter from Erastus Hanchett in the Practical Christian.*

THE REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER.

"A beloved brother, now dead, related to me a circumstance of his life, which I think is worth preserving. He was a soldier in the revolutionary war. After he came here, he became religious, and was convinced that all 'wars and fightings' are contrary to the Gospel of Christ. His zeal in advocating his principles, stirred up the enmity of a wicked man in the neighbourhood, who threatened, when his son came home from the army, he would flog him.

"Sure enough, when the son came home, the old man told such stories to him about this brother, that it excited him to that degree, that he came to the house where my brother lived, in a rage, determined to fight. My brother expostulated with him, and endeavoured, by all the means in his power, to allay his anger, and deter him from his purpose; but all would not do; fight he must, and fight he would.

"'Well,' says the brother, 'if we must fight, don't let us be like cats and dogs, fighting in the house; so go out into the field.'

"To this he assented. When they had got into the field, and the young bully had stripped himself for the fight, my brother looked him in the face, and said, 'Now you are a great coward.' 'Coward! don't call me a coward.' 'Well, you are one of the greatest cowards I ever saw.' 'What do you mean?' 'I mean as I say; you must be a very great coward to go fighting a man who will not fight you.' 'What, don't you mean to fight me?' 'Not I; you may fight me as much as you

please, I shall not lift up a finger against you.' 'Is that your principle?' 'Yes, it is; and I mean to be true to it.' The spirit of the young soldier fell; and, stretching out his arm, he said, 'Then I would sooner cut off that arm than I would strike you.' They then entered into an explanation, and parted good friends."—*Non-Resistant.*

EX-PRESIDENT JEFFERSON AND THE COOPER'S SHOP.

"'The following was related, many years since, by one of the parties, who was a very respectable citizen of Montgomery county, Pa., since deceased:

During the presidential term of Thomas Jefferson, two young men from Pennsylvania took a lease from him of his merchant mill at Monticello, one of the stipulations of which was that the landlord should erect for their use, within a given period, a cooper's shop. The time for a meeting of Congress soon arriving, the President had to repair to Washington to attend to his official duties, where he remained a long time absorbed in national concerns, and the building of the cooper's shop was entirely forgotten by him. Not so with his tenants, whose daily wants constantly reminded them of the provisions contained in the lease; and finally they determined to erect it themselves, and charge the cost of it to their landlord. On the return of the President to his mansion, the parties met to settle a long account current, which had been running during his absence. The items were gone over and scrutinized one by one, and all were found satisfactory but the charge for building the cooper's shop, to which he objected, alleging that he could have erected it with his own workmen. Several attempts were made to effect a settlement, but they always failed when they

came to the cooper's shop. The young men became warm and zealous in the affair; and the parties, instead of getting nearer together, found themselves at every interview wider apart.

In this state of affairs, the father of the young men, who was a mild, affable, conciliating gentleman, possessing some knowledge of the world and its ways, arrived on a visit to his sons, who informed him of their difficulty with their landlord. He requested them to leave it to him, observing that he thought he could effect an amicable settlement in the case. This course was accordingly acceded to, and in due time he waited on the President with the account. It was scanned and agreed to, except the charge for building the shop, which, he said, with some firmness, he should not allow for reasons stated. His opponent, observing his apparent decision on the subject, very gravely remarked: 'Well, friend Jefferson, it has always been my practice through life, to yield rather than to contend.' Immediately on this remark being made, the president's chin fell on his breast for an instant, when raising his head in an erect position, he observed in a very emphatic manner, 'a very good principle, Mr. Shoemaker, and I can carry it as far as you can: let the account for the cooper's shop be allowed.' Thus ended the difficulty, and the parties continued their friendly regard for each other till death separated them. And the cultivation of a similar disposition, 'to follow peace with all men,' would terminate thousands of difficulties, add much to the happiness of individuals, and tend to promote the general harmony and order of society."—*Farmer's Cabinet.*

WILLIAM LADD AND NEIGHBOR PULSIFER.

The late William Ladd, denominated the apostle of the

peace cause, used to relate the following anecdote: "I had a fine field of grain growing upon an out-farm, some distance from the homestead. Whenever I rode by, I saw my neighbor Pulsifer's sheep in the lot, destroying my hopes of a harvest. These sheep were of the gaunt, long legged kind, active as spaniels—they could spring over the highest fence, and no wall could keep them out. I complained to neighbor Pulsifer, and sent him frequent messages, but all without avail. Perhaps they would be kept out for a day or two, but the legs of his sheep were long and my grain rather more tempting than the adjoining pasture. I rode by again—the sheep were all there—I became angry, and told my men to set the dogs on them, and if that would not do, I would pay them if they would shoot them.

"I rode away much agitated, for I was then not so much of a peace man as I am now, and I felt literally full of fight. All at once a light flashed in upon me. I asked myself, would it not be well for you to try in your own conduct the peace principle you are preaching to others? I thought it all over, and settled down my mind as to the best course to be pursued.

"The next day I rode over to see neighbor Pulsifer. I found him chopping wood at his door. Good morning, neighbor. No answer. Good morning, I repeated. He gave a kind of grunt like a hog, without looking up. I came, continued I, to see you about the sheep. At this he threw down his axe, and exclaimed in a most angry manner: 'Now arn't you a pretty neighbor to tell your men to kill my sheep! I heard of it—a rich man like you to shoot a poor man's sheep!'

"I was wrong, neighbor said I, but it won't do to let

your sheep eat up all that grain; so I came over to say that I would take your sheep to my homestead pasture, and put them with mine; and in the fall you may take them back; and if any one of them is missing you may take your pick out of my whole flock. Pulsifer looked confounded; he did not know how to take me. At last he stammered out, 'Now, Squire, are you in earnest?' Certainly I am, I answered: it is better for me to feed your sheep in my pasture on grass, than to feed them here on grain; and I see the fence cannot keep them out.

"After a moment's silence—'The sheep shan't trouble you any more,' exclaimed Pulsifer, 'I will fetter them all. But I'll let you know, when any man talks of shooting, I can shoot too; and when they are kind and neighborly, I can be kind too.' The sheep never again trespassed on my lot. And, my friends, (continued Father Ladd, addressing his audience,) remember that when you talk of injuring your neighbors, they talk of injuring you. When nations threaten to fight, other nations will be ready too. Love will beget love—a wish to be at peace will keep you at peace. You can overcome evil only with good, there is no other way."—*Democratic Review.*

CONCLUSION.

The foregoing illustrations are from the common affairs of life, and though not involving cases of extreme personal danger and escape, are nevertheless pertinent and important. They show the adaptation of Christian non-resistance to human nature in the ten thousand occurrences of personal difficulty. They demonstrate that it is not contrary to nature, but is peculiarly suited to allay and

purify the rising passions of men; that the worst of people are favorably affected by its interposition; that the decent sort might be preserved by it from numberless contentions, and that instead of counteracting the law of self preservation, it is the highest and surest method of securing the great ends of that law. This will be more fully demonstrated by a continuation of illustrations involving cases of greater peril and deliverance, in the next chapter. In the mean time I can hardly refrain from pressing upon the reader's understanding and conscience, the question, ☞ Is not the doctrine contended for, most Christian, most rational, most excellent, most admirably adapted to promote peace on earth and good will among mankind? Is it not just what poor groaning nature needs, to soothe, restore it to health, and carry it forward to its glorious destiny? It will appear more and more sound and lovely the more it is investigated.

"O, when will man unshackled rise,
From dross of earth refined—
Read mercy in his neighbor's eyes,
And be forever kind?"

CHAPTER V.

THE SAFETY OF NON-RESISTANCE.

Raymond the traveller—Agent of the Bible Society in Texas—The young man near Philadelphia—Robert Barclay and Leonard Fell — Archbishop Sharpe — Rowland Hill — Two Methodist Non-Resistants—The two New Zealand chiefs—The Missionary and Arabs—A Christian tribe in Africa—The Moravian Indians—The Moravians of Grace Hill—The Shakers—The Indians and the Quaker family—The Indians and the Quaker Meeting—The Christian town in the Tyrol—Captain Back, the Quakers, and the Malays—Jonathan Dymond—Colony of Pennsylvania.

I have been endeavoring to demonstrate in the preceding chapter that non-resistance, instead of being contrary to nature, is in perfect accordance with all her fundamental laws. I intend in the present chapter to complete that demonstration by an ample illustration of the superior general safety of non-resistance. This will be done by anecdotes and historical facts, showing its actual workings in many cases of imminent danger. I do not undertake to prove that the practice of non-resistance will *always* preserve the life and personal security of its adherents, but only that it *generally* will. Jesus, the apostles, and thousands of Christian martyrs were slain notwithstanding their non-resistance. Doubtless others will be wronged,

outraged, and murdered in time to come, notwithstanding the same safeguard. Exceptions do not disprove a general rule. As the advocates of *deadly resistance* do not contend that it *always* ensures the preservation of life and personal security, so neither do I contend that Christian non-resistance will do it. They contend that discretionary resistance is safer than non-resistance; that its general tendency, despite of incidental failures, is to preserve life and render personal safety secure. I contend for the exact reverse. Here is an important issue. The deadly resistants affirm the superior safety of their principle of action; the non-resistants of *theirs*. The parties are in direct contradiction. Which of them is right? The resistants have lost, according to Dr. Dick, 14,000,000,000, and according to Mr. Burke, 35,000,000,000 of human lives, since their experiment commenced. Can non-resistants make a greater loss than this? Can their principle of action result in a greater expenditure of life and happiness? No. Under the most unfavorable circumstances they will not lose in the proportion of one to a thousand, and a few centuries of perseverance in their principle would totally extinguish the fires of human violence throughout the earth. Let me proceed to show that the practice of non-resistance is pre-eminently safe.

RAYMOND THE TRAVELLER.

Raymond, a celebrated European traveller, bears the following testimony:

Speaking of the Spanish smugglers, he says: "These smugglers are as adroit as they are determined, are familiarized at all times, with peril, and march in the very face of death. Their first movement is a never-failing shot, and certainly would be an object of dread to most

passengers; for where are they to be dreaded more, than in deserts, where crime has nothing to witness it, and the feeble no assistance? As for myself, *alone and unarmed*, I have met them without anxiety, and have accompanied them without fear. We have little to apprehend from men whom we inspire with no distrust or envy, and everything to expect in those from whom we claim only what is due from man to man. The laws of nature still exist for those who have long shaken off the laws of civil government. At war with society, they are sometimes at peace with their fellows. The assassin has been my guide in the defiles of the boundaries of Italy; the smuggler of the Pyrenees has received me with a welcome in his secret paths. Armed, I should have been the enemy of both; unarmed, they have alike respected me. In such expectation, I have long since laid aside all menacing apparatus whatever. Arms may, indeed, be employed against the wild beast; but no one should forget that they are no defence against the traitor; that they irritate the wicked, and intimidate the simple; lastly, that the man of peace, among mankind, has a much more sacred defence—his character."

AGENT OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN TEXAS.

"In the early part of the year 1833, or about that time, an agent of the Bible Society was travelling in Texas. His course lay through a piece of woods, where two men waylaid him with murderous intentions, one being armed with a gun, the other with a large club. As he approached the place of their concealment, they rushed towards him; but, finding that no resistance was offered, they neither struck nor fired. He began to reason with them; and, presently, they seemed less eager to destroy him in

haste. After a short time, he prevailed on them to sit down with him upon a log, and talk the matter over deliberately; and finally, he persuaded them to kneel with him in prayer, after which they parted with him in a friendly manner."—*Calumet.*

THE YOUNG MAN NEAR PHILADELPHIA.

"A few years since, a young man in the vicinity of Philadelphia, was one evening stopped in a grove, with the demand, 'Your money, or your life.' The robber then presented a pistol to his breast. The young man, having a large sum of money, proceeded leisurely and calmly to hand it over to his enemy, at the same time setting before him the wickedness and peril of his career. The rebukes of the young man cut the robber to the heart. He became enraged, cocked his pistol, held it to the young man's head, and with an oath, said, 'Stop that preaching, or I will blow out your brains." The young man calmly replied,—"Friend, to save my money, I would not risk my life; but to save you from your evil course, I am willing to die. I shall not cease to plead with you." He then poured in the truth still more earnestly and kindly. Soon the pistol fell to the ground; the tears began to flow; and the robber was overcome. He handed the money all back with the remark, "I cannot rob a man of such principles."

ROBERT BARCLAY AND LEONARD FELL.

Robert Barclay, the celebrated apologist of the Quakers, and Leonard Fell, a member of the same Society, were severally attacked by highwaymen in England, at different times. Both faithfully adhered to their non-resistance principles, and both signally triumphed. The pis-

tol was levelled at Barclay, and a determined demand made for his purse. Calm and self-possessed, he looked the robber in the face, with a firm but meek benignity, assured him he was *his* and every man's friend, that he was willing and ready to relieve his wants, that he was free from the fear of death through a divine hope in immortality, and therefore was not to be intimidated by a deadly weapon; and then appealed to him, whether he could have heart to shed the blood of one who had no other feeling or purpose but to do him good. The robber was confounded; his eye melted; his brawny arm trembled; his pistol fell to his side; and he fled from the presence of the non-resistant hero whom he could no longer confront.

Fell was assaulted in a much more violent manner. The robber rushed upon him, dragged him from his horse, rifled his pockets, and threatened to blow out his brains on the spot, if he made the least resistance. This was the work of a moment. But Fell experienced no panic. His principles raised him above the fear of man and of death. Though forbidden to speak, he calmly but resolutely reproved the robber for his wickedness, warned him of the consequences of such a course of life, counselled him to reform, and assured him that while he forgave this wanton outrage on himself, he hoped for *his own* sake he would henceforth betake himself to an upright calling. His expostulation was so fearless, faithful and affectionate, that the robber was struck with compunction, delivered back his money and horse, and bade him go in peace. Then, with tears filling his eyes, he exclaimed,—"May God have mercy on a sinful wretch," and hastened out of sight.

ARCHBISHOP SHARPE.

"Archbishop Sharpe was assaulted by a footpad on the highway, who presented a pistol and demanded his money. The Archbishop spoke to the robber in the language of a fellow man and of a Christian. The man was really in distress, and the prelate gave him such money as he had, and promised that, if he would call at the palace, he would make up the amount to fifty pounds. This was the sum of which the robber had said he was in the utmost need. The man called and received the money. About a year and a half afterwards, this man came again to the palace, and brought back the same sum. He said that his circumstances had become improved, and that, through the "astonishing goodness" of the Archbishop, he had become "the most penitent, the most grateful, and happiest of his species." Let the reader consider how different the Archbishop's feelings were from what they would have been if by his hand this man had been cut off."—*Dymond.*

ROWLAND HILL.

I have seen an impressive anecdote of this distinguished London preacher, which I have failed to find among my papers, notwithstanding considerable search. I have but an imperfect recollection of the details, but the substance was as follows: Mr. Hill was returning from an excursion out of the city. A man suddenly beset him from the way side, pistol in hand, and demanded his purse. Mr. Hill calmly scrutinized his countenance with a look of compassion, and, while taking out his money, remarked to the robber that he did not look like a man of that bloody calling, and he was afraid some extreme distress had driven him to the crime. At the same time

he inquired how much he stood in need of. The man was affected, declared this was his first offence, and pleaded the distress of his family as his only excuse. Mr. Hill kindly assured him of his sympathy, and of his willingness to relieve him. He gave him a certain sum on the spot, and promised him further aid, if he would call at his house. The robber was melted into tears, humbly thanked his benefactor, and hastened towards the city. Mr. Hill, desirous of knowing the whole truth of the matter, directed his servant to follow the man home. This was accordingly done, and it was ascertained that the poor man occupied a miserable tenement in an obscure street, where his wife and children were on the verge of starvation. He was seen to hasten first to a bakery, and then home with a few loaves of bread. His wife received the bread with joy, but with astonishment, expressing her hope that her dear husband had obtained it by none but innocent means. The children cried for joy as they began to satiate their hunger, and the father alone looked *sad.* Mr. Hill benevolently took this man under his immediate care, provided a tenement for his family, and made him his coachman. He proved to be a remarkably honest and industrious man: and in a little time became a convert to experimental religion, and connected himself with Mr. Hill's church. For fifteen years he walked with such Christian circumspection as to command the entire confidence of all who knew him. At length he died in the triumphs of hope. His pastor preached an affecting funeral sermon on the occasion, in which for the first time he communicated the affair of the robbery, and took occasion to impress on his auditors the excellency of Christian forbearance, kindness and compassion towards the guilty. Here was a man withdrawn

from an awful course of crime, and by divine grace rendered a child of God—an exemplary and beloved brother in Christ. How different might have been the result, had Rowland Hill either resisted him with deadly weapons, or taken the same pains to hand him over to the government, that he did to befriend him? O how lovely is true righteousness! How comely is Christian non-resistance! How safe!

TWO METHODIST NON-RESISTANTS.

"The Rev. John Pomphret, an English Methodist minister, always advocated the *practical applicability* of the 'peace doctrine,'—'If a man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also, and if he compel thee to go with him a mile, go with him twain,'—always declaring that if he should be attacked by a highwayman, he should put it in practice. Being a cheese-monger, (he preached to *do good*, not for wages,) on his return from market one day, after he had received a large amount of money from his customers for the purpose of replenishing his year's stock, he was accosted by a robber, demanding his money, and threatening his life if he refused. The reverend peace-man coolly and kindly replied, 'Well, friend, how much do you want, for I will *give* it to you, and thus save you from the crime of committing highway robbery?' 'Will you *certainly* give me what I require,' asked the robber. 'I will, in truth, if you do not require more than I have got,' replied the non-resistant. 'Then, I want fifteen pounds', (about seventy-five dollars.) The required sum was counted out to him, and in gold, instead of in bank-bills, which, if the numbers had been observed, the reverend father, by notifying the bank, could have rendered uncurrent, be-

sides leaving the robber liable to detection in attempting to pass them, telling him at the same time *why* he gave the gold instead of bank-notes; and saying, 'Unfortunate man, I make you *welcome* to this sum. Go home. Pay your debts. Hereafter, get your living *honestly*.'

"Years rolled on. At length, the good preacher received a letter, containing *principal and interest*, and a humble confession of his sins, from the robber, saying, that his appeals waked up his slumbering conscience, which had given him no rest till he had made both restitution and confession, besides wholly changing his course of life."

Reader! Conscience is a more powerful principle than fear: and more difficult to stifle. Precaution may make the wicked feel safe; but conscience is not to be thus put off, or its remonstrances hushed by thoughts of safety. Punishment appeals to physical fear, which a due precaution against detection quiets; but cultivate and properly direct the consciences of children, and urge home moral accountability upon adults, and an effectual reformation will thereby be brought about. Reader! I leave it for *you* to say, whether this is not a *law of mind*.

The Rev. Mr. Ramsay, another Methodist clergyman, was wholly dependent for his living on the quarterly collection made by his people, which was barely sufficient, by the greatest economy, to support his family. On the night that one of these collections was taken up, he was obliged to preach six miles distant from his home, and the night was too stormy to allow of his return. During the night, two robbers broke into his house, called up Mrs. Ramsay and her sister, (there were no men living in the house,) and demanded to know where the money was. Mrs. R., in her night dress, lit the candle, and leading

the way to the bureau that contained the precious deposit, procured the key, opened the drawer, and pointing out the money as it lay in a handkerchief, said, 'This is all we have to live on. It is the Lord's money. Yet, if you *will* take it, there it is.' With this remark, she left them, and retired to bed. The next morning, the money to a cent, was found undisturbed. *Conscience* here, as above, was appealed to, and with the same results.—*Fowler's Phrenological Journal.*

THE TWO NEW ZEALAND CHIEFS.

The following highly interesting fact relates to the conduct of two principal persons in New Zealand; one of them of the Ngapuhi tribe, and the other residing at Otumoetai in that island. We are indebted for this truly gratifying account of highly elevated feelings (in men, until lately, looked upon as incorrigible savages,) to the Rev. Messrs. Taylor and Wilson, stationed among them. It is extracted from the (Church of England) Missionary Register, for January, 1841. Who can but wish that all our countrymen, recently gone thither, may acquire this truly Christian spirit in settling disputes, and forget the warlike methods which, to the disgrace of Christianity, are practised in Europe and elsewhere, by the professed followers of the Saviour of the world, the *Prince of Peace?*

When the Ngapuhi people came to attack the town of the Otumoetai chief, he one morning went out to reconnoitre their camp; and while in concealment amongst the fern, he perceived the principal chief of the enemy advancing towards him, who was coming with a similar intention. The enemy was well armed, but he had no weapon with him; yet, not deterred, he continued for

some time in his place of concealment, until he observed the chief sit down on the shore at a distance, with his back towards him: he then crept unperceived and springing suddenly upon him like a tiger, he in a instant turned him over, wrested his mery, (a weapon of war,) from his hand, deprived him of his double-barrelled gun, and tying his arms behind made him march before him to his town. When he had nearly reached it, he ordered his prisoner to stand: he did so, expecting it to be the signal for his death; instead of which, the conqueror unbound his arms and restored his weapons, bidding him to bind him, and drive him in the same way, as a prisoner to his camp; which was accordingly done. When they entered it, the people set up a shout on beholding their Chief leading in so distinguished a prisoner, and it was with difficulty that he could preserve him from being instantly put to death. The Chief who had been so nobly released, bade them have patience until he had told them how his captive had acted, when they might put him to death if they wished; after some hesitation they consented, and sat down in a circle around them. The whole story was then told; which not only raised a general feeling of admiration in favor of their prisoner, but was the means of an immediate peace being proclaimed! *Should not Christians pray that a like spirit may henceforward animate themselves?—Tract of London Peace Society.*

THE MISSIONARY AND ARABS.

Mr. King, a respectable Missionary in Palestine, mentions a remarkable instance of the effect of pacific conduct, which operated to preserve his own life and the

lives of a considerable party, when assailed by a more powerful band of Arabs on the plain of Esdracion. The party of Mr. King had lost a trunk, which had been stolen, as they supposed, by some Arabs. In consequence of this, they seized two Arabs, and bound them together with cords, believing them to be the robbers. These they took along with them, on their journey, contrary to the wishes of Mr. King. Soon the whole party were attacked by a band of Arabs, who set their brethren at liberty. Great was the alarm; but one of the party of Mr. King being about to fire on the Arabs, Mr. King objected, and others interposed in season to prevent the evil intended. Every part of the Kofila was soon attacked, and Mr. King observes:

"It was no time to parley. All was confusion. No one knew whether he expected life or death. The latter, however, seemed to stare us in the face. Our baggage was at length cut off: there seemed to be a little cessation on the part of the Arabs, and I hoped that, contented with our baggage, they would let us go in peace. But in a moment I saw them coming on again, and I thought that probably all was lost, and that, as they had stopped our baggage, they now intended to take our lives. It was an awful moment. I could only say, 'Heaven defend us.' I was in front of the Kofila, and a little distance ahead, when an Arab Sheik came flying up to me on his steed with a large club in his hand. Making a halt, I addressed him, calling him *brother*; and said, 'do me no harm, I have not injured you.'

"I spoke to him words of peace and gentleness. Upon this he let down his club which he had been brandishing, halted, listened, and presently turned away; and soon after I saw him driving back some of our pursuers, and

the cry of *ayman* (safety) was heard by us; and I need not say is was a welcome sound to our ears.

"The baggage, too, to my surprise, was soon after permitted to come on. The attack was a gallant one, and made by the Arabs as if they were determined to carry their point through life or death. And I have no doubt that had one of their party fallen by our hands, it would have been the signal for the slaughter of us all."

A CHRISTIAN TRIBE IN AFRICA.

The following interesting incident is copied from "Moffat's Southern Africa." It occurred in a remote village of native Africans, the inhabitants of which had received Christian teachers, and were just emerging from a state of barbarism:

"This little Christian band had met on a Sabbath morning, with the people, in the centre of the village, to hold the early prayer meeting, before the services of the day. They were scarcely seated when a party of marauders approached from the interior, whither they had gone for plunder, and not having succeeded to their wishes, had determined to attack this village on their return.

"Moshen (the chief) arose, and begged the people to sit still, and trust in Jehovah, while he went to meet the marauders. To his inqury what they wanted, the appalling reply was, 'your cattle, and it is at your peril you raise your weapons to resist.' 'There are my cattle,' replied the chief, and then retired and resumed his position at the prayer meeting. A hymn was sung, a chapter read, and then all kneeled in prayer to God, who only could save them in their distress.

The sight was too sacred and solemn to be gazed on

by such a band of ruffians; they all withdrew from the spot, without touching a single article belonging to the people."

THE MORAVIAN INDIANS.

A small tribe of Indians in the *West* had been converted by the Moravian Missionaries to their faith, one article of which is that Christians cannot innocently fight, even to save their lives. A while afterwards this little pacific tribe was thrown into extreme alarm and distress by intelligence that a much larger tribe at some distance to the North meditated a hostile incursion upon them. They called on their Moravian teachers for advice. They did not see how they could possibly avoid fighting under such circumstances. They feared they should be utterly destroyed by their enemies unless they resisted. They were affectionately and earnestly exhorted to abide by their principles, and trust in God. They were told of the superior numbers of the hostile tribe, and how uncertain their fate would be, should they presume to make deadly weapons their reliance. They were advised to select a few of their oldest men as a delegation, and to supply them with such presents of choice eatables and other articles, as their circumstances would afford. This venerable delegation, entirely unarmed, except with their baskets of parched corn, fruits, &c., were to advance and meet the enemy at a distance from the village. Meantime those who remained behind were to engage in united supplication to the Father of spirits for his protection. The advice was accepted, faithfully followed, and successfully carried out. The hostile Indians were advancing upon their defenceless prey. The old men, laden with their simple but significant presents, went out to

meet them. The invaders, astonished and awed by the spectacle, halted on their tomahawks. When the delegates reached the advanced lines they opened as if by magic, and a passage was freely offered them to the presence of the commanding Sachem. Their age and meekness commanded his instant admiration. He accepted their presents, listened to their counsels of peace, declared his friendship, sent them back with assurances that no injury should be done by his tribe to theirs, and declared that if any attack should be made upon them he and his people would be their protectors. So these truly Christian Indians escaped entirely the threatened injury, and sat down in their cabins, surrounded by bulwarks of security such as nothing but these divine principles and their all perfect Author can establish.

THE MORAVIANS OF GRACE HILL.

During the rebellion in Ireland, in 1793, the rebels, it is stated, had long meditated an attack on the Moravian settlement at Grace Hill, Wexford county. At length, in fulfilment of their threats, a large body of them marched to the town. But the Moravians, true to their principles, in this trying emergency, did not meet them in arms; but, assembling in their place of worship, besought Jehovah to be their shield and protector in the hour of danger. The hostile bands, who had expected an armed resistance, were struck with astonishment at a sight so unexpected and impressive; they heard the prayers and praises of the Moravians; they listened to supplications in *their own behalf;* and, after lingering in the streets a whole day and night, they with one consent turned and marched away, without having injured a single individual."

THE SHAKERS.

"The Shakers, too, have experienced that protection which pacific principles are sure to afford. About the year 1812, the inhabitants of Indiana were harassed by incursions from the Indians; but the Shakers who lived in that region, although they were without garrisons and without arms, appear to have been entirely secure, while the work of destruction was going on around them. The question was once put to a prominent chief, why the Indians did not attack and injure the Shakers, as well as others. His answer was, 'We warriors meddle with a peaceable people! That people, we know, will not fight. It would be a disgrace to hurt such a people.'"—*The Friend of Peace.*

THE INDIANS AND THE QUAKER FAMILY.

An intelligent Quaker of Cincinnati, related to me the following circumstance, as evidence that the principle of non-resistance possesses great influence, even over the savage. During the last war, a Quaker lived among the inhabitants of a small settlement on our western frontier. When the savages commenced their desolating outbreaks, every inhabitant fled to the interior settlements, with the exception of the Quaker and his family. He determined to remain, and rely wholly upon the simple rule of disarming his enemies with entire confidence and kindness. One morning, he observed, through his window, a file of savages issuing from the forest in the direction of his house. He immediately went out and met them, and put out his hand to the leader of the party. But neither he nor the rest gave him any notice—they entered his house, and searched it for arms, and had they found any,

most probably would have murdered every member of the family. There were none, however, and they quietly partook of the provisions which he placed before them, and left him in peace. At the entrance of the forest, he observed that they stopped and appeared to be holding a council. Soon one of their number left the rest, and came towards his dwelling on the leap. He reached the door, and fastened a simple white feather above it, and returned to his band, when they all disappeared. Ever after, that white feather saved him from the savages; for whenever a party came by and observed it, it was a sign of peace to them. In this instance, we discover that the law of kindness disarmed even savage foes, whose white feather told their red brethren that the Quaker was a follower of Penn, and the friend of their race.—*Montgomery's Law of Kindness.*

THE INHABITANTS OF THE LOOCHOO ISLANDS.

These islands are in the neighbourhood of the Chinese Sea. They have been visited by several navigators, and, among others, by Captain Basil Hall. He states that they have neither forts, men-of war, garrisons, arms, nor soldiers, and appear to be quite ignorant of the art of war. They are kind, hospitable, courteous, and honest, and acquainted with some of the mechanical arts. Well, what has been their fate? Reasoning on the rash premises of our opponents, we should predicate their utter destruction. But have they been destroyed? Quite the contrary. They have been preserved in peace, safety, and happiness. "The Olive branch" is planted on their shores, and they sit beneath it, "no man daring to make them afraid."—*McCree.*

THE INDIANS AND THE QUAKER MEETING.

I have somewhere met with the following anecdote, but cannot now recollect where. In western New York or Pennsylvania, in a period of Indian hostilities, a neighborhood of Friends, who had erected a log meeting house, regularly assembled after the manner of their Society. They had been invited and urged to come within the protection of the army and its fortifications. But they refused to abandon their testimony by expressing any such reliance on the arm of flesh. They were consequently exposed to the attack of every wandering horde of warriors on that part of the frontier. One day, while sitting in silent devotion in their rude meeting house, a party of Indians suddenly approached the place, painted and armed for the work of slaughter. They passed to and fro by the open door of the house, looking inquisitively within and about the building, till having sufficiently reconnoitred the quiet worshippers, they at length respectfully entered and joined them. They were met by the principal Friends with the outstretched hand of peace, and shown to such seats as the house afforded, which they occupied in reverent silence till the meeting was regularly dissolved. They were then invited to one of the nearest dwellings by the leading man of the Society, and hospitably refreshed. On their departure the Indian chief took his host aside, and pledged him and his people perfect security from all the depredations of the red men. Said he, "when Indian come to this place, Indian meant to tomahawk every white man he found. But when Indian found white man with no guns, no fighting weapons, so still, so peaceable, worshipping Great Spirit, the Great Spirit say in Indian's heart—no hurt them, no hurt them!" So saying, he gave a final friendly grip and

hastened off with his followers to find that sort of white men whose confidence in deadly weapons invited destruction.

THE CHRISTIAN TOWN IN THE TYROL.

The following is a beautiful extract from one of Lydia Maria Child's letters to the Boston Courier. I commend it not merely to a pleasant reading, which it will be sure to receive, but to a most serious *consideration:*

"To-day is Christmas. From East to West, from North to South, men chaunt hymns of praise to the despised Nazarene, and kneel in worship before his cross. How beautiful is this universal homage to the principle of love! —that feminine principle of the universe, the inmost centre of Christianity. It is the divine idea which distinguishes it from all other religions, and yet the idea in which Christian nations evince so little faith, that one would think they kept *only* to swear by that gospel which says, 'swear not at all.'

"Centuries have passed, and through infinite conflict have 'ushered in our brief day;' and is there peace and good will among men? Sincere faith in the words of Jesus would soon fulfil the prophecy which angels sung. But the world persists in saying, 'this doctrine of unqualified forgiveness and perfect love, though beautiful and holy, cannot be carried into practice *now;* men are not prepared for it.' The same spirit says, 'it would not be safe to emancipate slaves; they must first be fitted for freedom.' As if slavery ever *could* fit men for freedom, or war ever lead the nations into peace! Yet men who gravely utter these excuses, laugh at the shallow wit of that timid mother, who declared that her son

should never venture into the water till he had learned to swim.

"Those who have dared to trust the principles of peace, have always found them perfectly safe. It can never prove otherwise, if accompanied by the declaration that such a course is the result of Christian principle, and a deep friendliness for humanity. Who seemed so little likely to understand such a position, as the Indians of North America? Yet how readily they laid down tomahawks and scalping knives at the feet of William Penn! With what humble sorrow they apologized for killing the only three Quakers they were ever known to attack! 'The men carried arms,' said they, 'and therefore we did not *know* they were not fighters. We thought they pretended to be Quakers, because they were cowards.' The savages of the East, who murdered Lyman and Munson, made the same excuse. 'They carried arms,' said they, 'and so we supposed they were not Christian missionaries, but enemies. We would have done them no harm, if we had known they were men of God.'

"If a nation could but attain to such high wisdom as to abjure war, and proclaim to all the earth, 'we will not fight under any provocation; if other nations have aught against us, we will settle the question by umpires mutually chosen;' think you that any nation would *dare* to make war upon such a people? Nay, verily, they would be instinctively ashamed of such an act, as men are now ashamed to attack a woman or a child. Even if any were found mean enough to pursue such a course, the whole civilized world would cry fie upon them, and, by universal consent, brand them as poltroons and assassins. And assassins they would be, even in the common acceptation of the term. I have read of a certain regiment

ordered to march into a small town (in the Tyrol, I think,) and take it. It chanced that the place was settled by a colony who believed the gospel of Christ, and proved their faith by works. A courier from a neighboring village informed them that troops were advancing to take the town. They quietly answered, 'If they *will* take it, they must.' Soldiers soon came riding in with colors flying, and fifes piping their shrill defiance. They looked round for an enemy, and saw the farmer at his plough, the blacksmith at his anvil, and the women at their churns and spinning-wheels. Babies crowed to hear the music, and boys ran out to see the pretty trainers, with feathers and bright buttons, 'the harlequins of the nineteenth century.' Of course, none of these were in a proper position to be shot at. 'Where are your soldiers?' they asked. 'We have none,' was the brief reply. 'But we have come to take the town.' 'Well, friends, it lies before you.' 'But is there nobody here to fight?' 'No; we are all Christians.' Here was an emergency altogether unprovided for by the military schools. This was a sort of resistance which no bullet could hit; a fortress perfectly bomb-proof. The commander was perplexed. 'If there is nobody to fight with, of course we cannot fight,' said he. 'It is impossible to take such a town as this.' So he ordered the horses' heads to be turned about, and they carried the human animals out of the village, as guiltless as they entered, and perchance somewhat wiser.

"This experiment on a small scale indicates how easy it would be to dispense with armies and navies, if men only had faith in the religion they profess to believe. When France lately reduced her army, England immediately did the same; for the existence of one army

creates the necessity of another, unless men are safely ensconced in the bomb-proof fortress above mentioned."

CAPT. BACK—THE QUAKERS—THE MALAYS.

I shall make no apology for adding to the foregoing the following extracts from another article, by the same fruitful and instructive pen.

"It is a mission worth living for, if I can give the least aid in convincing mankind that the Christian doctrine of overcoming evil with good, is not merely a beautiful sentiment, as becoming to the religious, as are pearls to the maiden's bosom, but that it is really the highest reason, the bravest manliness, the most comprehensive philosophy, the wisest political economy.

"The amount of proof that it is so, seems abundant enough to warrant the belief that a practical adoption of peace principles would be always safe, even with the most savage men, and under the most desperate circumstances, provided there was a chance to have it distinctly understood that such a course was not based on cowardice, but on principle.

"When Capt. Back went to the Polar regions in search of his friend, Capt. Ross, he fell in with a band of the Esquimaux, who had never seen a white man. The chief raised a spear to hurl it at the stranger's head; but when Capt. Back approached calmly and unarmed, the spear dropped, and the rude savage gladly welcomed the brother man, who had trusted in him. Had Capt. Back adopted the usual maxim, that it is necessary to carry arms in such emergencies, he would probably have occasioned his own death and that of his companions.

Perhaps the severest test to which the peace principles were ever put, was in Ireland, during the memorable re-

bellion of 1798. During that terrible conflict, the Irish Quakers were continually between two fires. The protestant party viewed them with suspicion and dislike because they refused to fight or to pay military taxes; and the fierce multitude of insurgents deemed it sufficient cause of death, that they would neither profess belief in the Catholic religion nor help them fight for Irish freedom. Victory alternated between the two contending parties, and, as usual in civil war, the victors made almost indiscriminate havoc of those who did not march under their banners. It was a perilous time for all men; but the Quakers alone were liable to a raking fire from both sides. Foreseeing calamity, they had, nearly two years before the war broke out, publicly destroyed all their guns, and other weapons used for game. But this pledge of pacific intentions was not sufficient to satisfy the government, which required warlike assistance at their hands. Threats and insults were heaped upon them from all quarters; but they steadfastly adhered to their resolution of doing good to both parties, and harm to neither. Their houses were filled with widows and orphans, with the sick, the wounded and the dying, belonging both to the loyalists and the rebels. Sometimes, when the Catholic insurgents were victorious, they would be greatly enraged to find Quaker houses filled with Protestant families. They would point their pistols and threaten death, if their enemies were not immediately turned into the street to be massacred. But the pistol dropped, when the Christian mildly replied, "Friend, do what thou wilt, I will not harm thee, or any other human being." Not even amid the savage fierceness of civil war, could men fire at one who spoke such words as these. They saw that this was not cowardice, but bravery very much higher than their own.

On one occasion, an insurgent threatened to burn down a Quaker house unless the owner expelled the Protestant women and children who had taken refuge there. "I cannot help it," replied the Friend; "so long as I have a house, I will keep it open to succor the helpless and distressed, whether they belong to thy ranks, or to those of thy enemies. If my house is burned, I must be turned out with them, and share their affliction." The fighter turned away and did the Christian no harm.

The Protestant party seized the Quaker school-master of Ballitore, saying they could see no reason why he should stay at home in quiet, while they were obliged to defend his property. "Friends, I have asked no man to fight for me," replied the school-master. But they dragged him along, swearing that he should at least stop a bullet. His house and school-house were filled with women and children, who had taken refuge there; for it was an instructive fact, throughout this bloody contest, that *the houses of the men of peace were the only places of safety.* Some of the women followed the soldiers, begging them not to take away their friend and protector, a man who expended more for the sick and starving, than others did for arms and ammunition. The school-master said, "Do not be distressed, my friends. I forgive these neighbors; for what they do, they do in ignorance of my principles and feelings. They may take my life, but they cannot force me to do injury to one of my fellow creatures." As the Catholics had done, so did the Protestants; they went away, and left the man of peace safe in his divine armor.

The flames of bigotry were, of course, fanned by civil war. On one occasion, the insurgents seized a wealthy old Quaker, in very feeble health, and threatened to shoot

him, if he did not go with them to a Catholic priest to be christened. They had not led him far, before he sank down from extreme weakness. "What do you say to our propos tion?" asked one of the soldiers, handling his gun significantly. The old man quietly replied, "If thou art permitted to take my life I hope our Heavenly Father will forgive thee." The insurgents talked apart for a few moments, and then went away, restrained by a power they did not understand.

Deeds of kindness added strength to the influence of gentle words. The officers and soldiers of both parties had had some dying brother tended by the Quakers, or some starving mother who had been fed, or some desolate little ones who had been cherished. Whichever party marched into a village victorious, the cry was, "Spare the Quakers! They have done good to all, and harm to none." While flames were raging, and blood flowing in every direction, the houses of the peace makers stood uninjured.

It is a circumstance worthy to be recorded, that, during the fierce and terrible struggle, even in counties where Quakers were most numerous, but one of their society fell a sacrifice.

That one was a young man, who, being afraid to trust peace principles, put on a military uniform, and went to the garrison for protection. The garrison was taken by the insurgents, and he was killed. "His dress and arms spoke the language of hostility," says the historian, "and therefore invited it."

A few years ago, I met an elderly man in the Hartford stage, whose conversation led me to reflect on the baseness and iniquity often concealed behind the apparent glory of war. The thumb of his right hand hung down,

as if suspended by a piece of thread; and some of the passengers enquired the cause; "A Malay woman cut the muscle with her sabre," was the reply.

"A Malay woman!" they exclaimed. "How came you fighting with a woman?"

"I did not know she was a woman, for they all dress alike there," said he. "I was on board the U. S. ship Potomac, when it was sent out to chastise the Malays for murdering the crew of a Salem vessel. We attacked one of their forts, and killed some two hundred or more. Many of them were women; and I can tell you, the Malay women are as good fighters as the men."

After answering several questions concerning the conflict, he was silent for a moment, and then added, with a sigh:

"Ah, that was a bad business. I do not like to remember it; I wish I had never had any thing to do with it. I have been a seaman from my youth, and I know the Malays well. They are a brave and honest people. Deal fairly with them, and they will treat you well, and may be trusted with untold gold. The Americans were to blame in that business. The truth is, Christian nations are generally to blame, in the outset, in all the difficulties with less civilized people. A Salem ship went to Malacca to trade for pepper. They agreed to give the natives a stated compensation, when a certain number of measures full of pepper were delivered.

Men, women and children were busy picking pepper and bringing it on board. The Captain proposed that the sailors should go on shore and help them; and the natives consented, with the most confiding good nature. The sailors were instructed to pick till evening, and then leave the baskets full of pepper around the bushes, with

the understanding that they were to be brought on board by the natives in the morning. They did so, without exciting any suspicion of treachery. But in the night the baskets were all conveyed away, and the vessel sailed away, leaving the Malays unpayed for their valuable cargo. This, of course, excited great indignation, and they made loud complaints to the commander of the next American vessel that arrived on that coast. In answer to a demand of redress from the Government, they were assured the case should be represented, and the wrong repaired. But 'Yankee cuteness' in cheating a few savages, was not sufficiently uncommon to make any great stir, and the affair was soon forgotten. Some time after, another Captain of a Salem ship played a similar trick, and carried off a still larger quantity of stolen pepper. The Malays, exasperated beyond measure, resorted to Lynch law, and murdered an American crew that landed there about the same time. The U. S. ship Potomac was sent out to punish them for the outrage; and, as I told, we killed some two hundred men and women. I sometimes think that our retaliation was not more rational or more like Christians, than theirs."

"Will you please," said I, "to tell me what sort of revenge *would* be like Christians?"

He hesitated and said it would be a hard question to answer. "I never felt pleasantly about that affair," continued he; "I would not have killed her if I had known she was a woman."

I asked why he felt any more regret about killing a woman than killing a man?

"I hardly know why myself," answered he. "I do'nt suppose I should, if it were a common thing for women to fight. But we are accustomed to think of them as

not defending themselves; and there is something in every human heart that makes a man unwilling to fight in return. It seems mean and dastardly, and a man cannot work himself up to it."

"Then, if one nation *would* not fight, another *could* not," said I.

"What if a nation, instead of an individual, should make such an appeal to the manly feeling, which you say is inherent in the heart?"

"I believe other nations would be ashamed to attack her," he replied. It would take away all the glory and excitement of war, and the hardiest soldier would shrink from it, as from cold-blooded murder."

"Such a peace establishment would be at once cheap and beautiful," rejoined I; and so we parted.

JONATHAN DYMOND—COLONY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

I shall relieve myself, and edify my readers, by concluding this chapter with a somewhat extended extract from the Essays of Jonathan Dymond. It is from that part of his third Essay, headed, "*The probable practical effects of adhering to the moral law in respect to war.*" It is exceedingly pertinent, lucid and convincing. He says:

"It is never to be forgotten that our apparent interests in the present life are sometimes, in the economy of God, made subordinate to our interests in futurity. Yet, even in reference only to the present state of existence, I believe that we shall find that the testimony of experience is, that forbearance is most conducive to our interests. There is practical truth in the position, that, 'When a man's ways please the Lord,' he 'maketh even his *enemies to be at peace with him.*'

"The reader of American history will recollect, that in the beginning of the last century a desultory and most dreadful warfare was carried on by the natives against the European settlers; a warfare that was provoked—as such warfare has almost always originally been—by the injury and violence of the [nominal] Christians. The mode of destruction was secret and sudden. The barbarians sometimes lay it wait for those who might come within their reach, on the highway or in the fields, and shot them without warning, and sometimes they attacked the Europeans in their houses, "scalping some, and knocking out the brains of others." From this horrible warfare the inhabitants sought safety by abandoning their houses, and retiring to fortified places, or to the neighborhood of garrisons; and those whom necessity still compelled to pass beyond the limits of such protection, provided themselves with arms for their defence. But amidst this dreadful desolation and universal terror, the *Society of Friends*, who were a considerable portion of the whole population, were steadfast to their principles. They would neither retire to garrisons, nor provide themselves with arms. They remained openly in the country, whilst the rest were flying to the forts They still pursued their occupations in the fields or at their homes, without a weapon either for annoyance or defence. And what was their fate? They lived in security and quiet. The habitation, which, to his armed neighbor, was the scene of murder and of the scalping knife, was to the unarmed Quaker a place of safety and of peace. *Three* of the Society were however killed. And who were they? They were three who abandoned their principles. Two of these victims were men who, in the simple language of the narrator, "used to go to their labor without any

weapons, and trusted to the Almighty, and depended on his providence to protect them, (it being their principle not to use weapons of war to offend others, or to defend themselves;) *but a spirit of distrust* taking place in their minds, they took weapons of war to defend themselves, and the Indians who had seen them several times without them and let them alone, saying they were peaceable men and hurt nobody, therefore they would not hurt them—now seeing them have guns, and supposing they designed to kill the Indians, they therefore shot the men dead. The third whose life was sacrificed was a woman, 'who had remained in her habitation,' not thinking herself warranted in going 'to a fortified place for preservation,' neither she, her son, nor daughter, nor to take thither the little ones: but the poor woman after some time began to let in a slavish fear, and advised her children to go with her to a fort not far from their dwelling. She went; and shortly afterwards 'the bloody, cruel Indians, lay by the way, and killed her.'

"The fate of the Quakers during the rebellion in Ireland was nearly similar. It is well known the Rebellion was a time not only of open war but of cold-blooded murder; of the utmost fury of bigotry, and the utmost exasperation of revenge. Yet the Quakers were preserved even to a proverb; and when strangers passed through streets of ruin, and observed a house standing uninjured and alone, they would sometimes point, and say, 'That, doubtless, is the house of a Quaker.' So complete indeed was the preservation which these people experienced, that in an official document of the Society they say, 'no member of our Society fell a sacrifice but one young man; and that young man had assumed regimentals and arms.'

"It were to no purpose to say, in opposition to the evidence of these facts, that they form an exception to a general rule. The exception to the rule consists in the *trial* of the experiment of non-resistance, not in its *success*. Neither were it to any purpose to say, that the savages of America, or the desperadoes of Ireland, spared the Quakers because they were *previously* known to be an unoffending people, or because the Quakers had *previously* gained the love of these by forbearance or good offices. We concede all this: it is the very argument which we maintain. We say, that a *uniform, undeviating* regard to the peaceable obligations of Christianity, *becomes the safeguard of those who practice it.* We venture to maintain that no reason whatever can be assigned, why the fate of the Quakers would not be the fate of *all* who should adopt their conduct. No reason can be assigned why, if their numbers had been multiplied tenfold, or a hundred-fold, they would not have been preserved. If there be such a reason, let us hear it. The American and Irish Quakers were, to the rest of the community, what one nation is to a continent. And we must require the advocate of war to produce (that which has never yet been produced) a reason for believing, that although individuals exposed to destruction were preserved, a nation exposed to destruction would be destroyed. We do not however say, that if a people, in the customary state of men's passions, should be assailed by an invader, and should on a sudden choose to declare that they would try whether Providence would protect them—of such a people we do not say, that they would experience protection, and that none of them would be killed. But we say that the evidence of experience is, that a people who habitually regard the obligations of

Christianity, in their conduct towards other men, and who steadfastly refuse, through whatever consequences, to engage in acts of hostility, *will experience protection in their peacefulness.* And it matters nothing to the argument, whether we refer that protection to the immediate agency of Providence, or to the influence of such conduct upon the minds of men.

Such has been the experience of the unoffending and unresisting, in individual life. A *National* example of a refusal to bear arms, has only once been exhibited to the world; but that one example has proved, so far as its political circumstances enabled it to prove, all that humanity could desire and all that skepticism could demand, in favor of our argument.

THE COLONY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

"It has been," says he, "the ordinary practice of those who have colonized distant countries, to force a footing; or to maintain it with the sword. One of the first objects has been to build a fort, and to provide a military. The adventurers became soldiers, and the colony was a garrison. Pennsylvania was, however, colonized by men who believed that war was absolutely incompatible with Christianity, and who, therefore, resolved not to practice it. Having determined not to fight, *they maintained no soldiers* and *possessed no arms.* They planted themselves in a country that was surrounded by savages, and by savages who knew they were unarmed. If easiness of conquest, or incapability of defence, could subject them to outrage, the Pennsylvanians might have been the very sport of violence. Plunderers might have robbed them without retaliation, and armies might have slaughtered them without resistance. If they did not

give a temptation to outrage, no temptation could be given. *But these were the people who possessed their country in security, whilst those around them were trembling for their existence.* Theirs was a land of peace, whilst every other was a land of war. The conclusion is inevitable, although it is extraordinary; they were in no need of arms, *because they would not use them.*'

"These Indians were sufficiently ready to commit outrages on other states, and often visited them with desolation and slaughter; with that sort of desolation and that sort of slaughter which might be expected from men whom civilization had not reclaimed from cruelty, and whom religion had not awed into forbearance. 'But whatever the quarrels of the Pennsylvanian Indians were with others, they uniformly respected and held, as it were, sacred, the territories of William Penn.' 'The Pennsylvanians never lost a man, woman, or child, by them; which neither the colony of Maryland, nor that of Virginia could say, no more than the great colony of New England.'

"The security and quiet of Pennsylvania was not a transient freedom from war, such as might accidentally happen to any nation. She continued to enjoy it 'for more than seventy years,' and 'subsisted in the midst of six Indian nations, without so much as a militia for her defence.'

"I cannot wonder that these people were not molested, extraordinary and unexampled as their security was. There is something so noble in this confidence in the Supreme Protector, in this utter exclusion of 'slavish fear,' in this voluntary relinquishment of the means of injury or of defence, that I do not wonder that even ferocity could be disarmed by such virtue. A people gene-

rously living without arms amidst nations of warriors! Who would attack a people such as this? There are few men so abandoned as not to respect such confidence. It were a peculiar and an unusual intensity of wickedness that would not even revere it.

And when was the security of Pennsylvania molested, and its peace destroyed? When the men who had directed its counsels, and *who would not engage in war, were outvoted in its legislature;* when *they who supposed that there was greater security in the sword than in Christianity, became the predominating body* From that hour the Pennsylvanians transferred their confidence in Christian principles, to a confidence in arms; and *from that hour to the present, they have been subject to war.*

Such is the evidence, derived from a national example, of the consequences of a pursuit of the Christian policy in relation to war. Here are a people who absolutely refused to fight, and who incapacitated themselves for resistance by refusing to possess arms; and these were the people whose land, amidst surrounding broils and slaughter, was selected as a land of security and peace. The only national opportunity which the virtue of the Christian world has afforded us of ascertaining the safety of relying upon God for defence, has determined that it is safe."

CHAPTER VI.

GENERAL OBJECTIONS ANSWERED.

1. Impracticable till the millennium—Principles of the millennium—Extracts from Professor Upham—2. Extremely difficult if not impossible—Hollowness of the objection—battle at the passage of the Traun in Austria—3. More difficulty in small than large matters—Illustrations: The profane swearer reproved and subdued—The Christian slave and his enemy—How to overcome evil—Henry C. Wright and his assailant—The victorious little boy—Colony of Practical Christians—The avenger stayed—Conclusion.

The present chapter will be devoted to the consideration and removal of sundry common objections to the doctrine of Christian non-resistance.

OBJECTION I. IMPRACTICABLE TILL THE MILLENNIUM.

"Your doctrine may be true in its principles, and in its ultimate requirements; but it must be impracticable till the millennium. *Then*, when the whole human race shall have become regenerate, its sublime morality will be the spontaneous developement of all hearts. Under existing circumstances, while there is so much depravity, and such multitudes of men are restlessly bent on agression, it is obviously impracticable. The wicked would shortly exterminate the righteous, were the latter to act on non-resistant principles."

ANSWER.—I affirm the exact contrary; viz. that the

righteous would exterminate the wicked in the best sense of the word, were they to act on strict non-resistant principles. They would immediately usher in the millennium, with all its blessings, were they to act on these principles in true and persevering fidelity. How else is it imaginable that any such state as the millennium should ever be developed among mankind? Is it to come arbitrarily and mechanically? Is it to come "with observation," the full grown production of some absolute miracle? Is not the kingdom of heaven "within" and "among" men, and thence, like leaven hid in three measures of meal, destined to ferment and rectify the whole mass? Ought not each true Christian's heart to be a germ of the millennium, and each Christian community a proximate miniature of it? If not, what is the evidence that men have been born again—that there is any such thing as *regeneration*? If professing to be disciples of Christ, they are unable, even by divine grace, to practice the precepts of their Lord and Master, merely because the unregenerate around them are *so wicked*; what is their religion, their profession, their regeneration *worth*?

The objection before us involves such extreme incongruities, that it can be entertained only for a moment. Let us examine it. 1. It presupposes that Jesus Christ enjoined on his disciples, duties for the whole period preceding the millennium, which he knew they could not perform until the arrival of the latter period, and yet gave them no intimation of that fact. 2. It presupposes that Jesus enjoined many particular duties for which there will be no possible occasion in the millennium, and which therefore can never be fulfilled. 3. It presupposes that the principles, dispositions and moral obligations of men in the millennium, will be essentially different from what the New Testament requires them to be now.

Is there any doubt in respect to these three statements? It is certain that Jesus apparently inculcates his non-resistant precepts as *now* binding and practicable,—and that he gives no intimation of their *impracticability* till some remote future period. Was this *design, chance or mistake?* In either case it derogates from the honor of the Redeemer. It is not to be presumed.

It is equally certain, on the objector's theory, that Christ enjoined particular duties for which there can be no possible occasion in the millennium. In the millennium there will be no occasion to put in practice the precept "Resist not evil;" for there will be no evil-doers to forbear with. In that day there will be no occasion for a man, when smitten on one cheek, to turn the other; when distrained of his coat, to give up his cloak; when persecuted and reviled, to bless; when trespassed upon, to forgive; and no occasion to love his enemy, do good to his hater, or pray for his injurer: For there will be none to harm or destroy in all God's holy mountain. There can be no occasion for non-resistance where there is no aggression, injury, or insult. So that the objector virtually makes the Son of God appear in the highest degree ludicrous and absurd. He makes him say, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth; but I say unto you that ye resist not evil," in the millennium when there will be none. "And if any man smite thee on thy right cheek," in the millennium, when all shall be love and kindness, "turn unto him the other also." "And whosoever will sue thee at the laws" in the millennium, when the law of love shall be universally obeyed, "and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also." "Love your enemies," in the millenium, when you have no enemies; "bless them which

curse you, when there are none to curse; "do good to them that hate you," when all love you; forgive offences "till seventy times seven," when offence shall be unknown; feed your foes, when all are friends; and "overcome evil with good," when no evil remains!!

These are sublime virtues which you are to practice, not *now*, when there are so many occasions for them, and when they might exert such a powerful influence in favor of my religion as contrasted with the spirit of this world—*not now*; for they are *impracticable*; the unbelieving world is *too wicked* for such an exemplification of righteousness; but *in the millennium*. *Then* practice them, when you find no occasion for them, and when it will be absolutely impossible to fulfil them for want of an opportunity. "For then all shall know and serve the Lord, from the least unto the greatest!!" Is the great Teacher to be thus understood? Who will presume to say it?

The third statement is also true. The objection presupposes that the principles, dispositions, and moral obligations of men in the millennium, will be essentially different from what the New Testament requires them to be *now*. This is an error so fundamental and yet so common among professing Christians, that it ought to be thoroughly exploded. Professor Upham has done this so effectually, in his "Manual of Peace," that I cannot refrain from presenting my readers with the following excellent extract.

PRINCIPLES OF THE MILLENNIUM.

"Are we to expect a new code, a new system of methods of operation? Are we to expect a new Saviour, a new crucifixion, a new and amended edition of the New

Testament? Certainly not. The doctrines of the millenium are the doctrines of to-day; the principles of the millennium are the very principles which are obligatory on the men of the present generation; the bond which will exclude all contention, and will bind together all hearts, will be nothing more nor less than the gospel of Christ.

"The gospel is a book of principles—of great, operative, unchangeable principles. Men condemn it because they do not understand it; even Christians may be fairly charged with treating it with no small degree of disregard, because, in their worldliness, they have neglected to estimate its heights and depths. If heaven could be brought down to the earth—if Europe and America, and all other continents and parts of the world, could, at the present moment, be peopled with angels, and with seraphic natures,—the gospel, just as it stands, would be sufficient to guide and govern them. The blessed companies of the heavenly world, unlike the children of men, would ask no higher and better code. But can we regard it as allowable, under any assignable circumstances, for an angel to retaliate upon an angel, for a seraph to exercise hostility upon a seraph, for one of these holy beings to hold in his own hands the right of extinguishing the life of another? What sort of heaven would that be, which should be characterized by the admission of such a principle? And we may ask, further, what sort of a *millennium* will that be, which shall be characterized, either practically or theoretically, in the same way? When men are fully restored to the favor of God, whether in heaven or earth, is there to be one code, one set of governmental principles for them, and another for other holy beings? Certainly not. In all the great matters of

right and duty, the law of seraphs is the law of angels, and the law of angels is the law of men. If it is utterly and absolutely inconsistent with our conceptions of the heavenly world, that the power of life and death should be taken from the hands of Jehovah, and that angels and seraphs should have the right to extinguish each other's existence, it is equally difficult to conceive of such a right in the millennium. And if it will not be right for the men of the millennium to exercise the power of life and death over each other, it is not right for them now. We have the same code of government now which we shall have then; we have the New Testament now and we shall have it then; and not only that, we shall understand it better and love it more. Nothing will be added to it; nothing will be taken from it. If it does not now consider human life inviolable, it never will; if it does not now proscribe all wars among the human species, it never will; the right of taking human life, if it exists now under the Christian code, will exist as a legal and authorized characteristic (painful and even horrible as the mere thought is) of the pure, blessed, and angelic state of the millennium. On the supposition, therefore, that life will be inviolable in the millennium, and that it will not be considered right for one man to put another to death for any possible reason, we argue that it is not right now. This form of reasoning is applicable to any other analogous case whatever. If it will not be right to steal in the millennium, it is not right to steal now; if it will not be right to be intemperate in the millennium, it is not right to be intemperate now; if it will not be right to hold slaves in the millennium, it is not right to hold slaves now; if it will not be right to take life and carry on war in the millennium, it is not right to take life and carry on

war now. The principles which will be acknowledged as authoritative in the millennium, are the very principles which are prescribed, and are binding upon us at the present moment. No change in principles is required, but merely a change in practice. If the practice of men should to-morrow be conformed to the principles which the finger of God has written on the pages of the New Testament, then to-morrow would behold the millennium.

"We delight to linger upon this subject. There is a charm in the millennial name. 'Scribenti manum injicit, et quamlibet festinantem in se morari cogit.' The wing of poetry flags under this great conception. Sometimes we see it under the type of a wilderness newly clothed with bud and blossom; sometimes we see it under the type of a city descending from heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; sometimes we behold it as a great temple, arising out of the earth, and capacious enough to contain all nations. This temple is not built of earthly materials, that will perish with the using, but is supported on immutable columns. Every great moral and religious principle is a pillar in the millennial temple. The principle of total abstinence from all intoxicating liquor is one pillar; it suddenly arose, fair and beautiful, and even now is enveloped with some rays of millennial glory: the doctrine that all slaveholding is a sin is another pillar, standing firm, awfully grand and immoveable; the doctrine of the absolute inviolability of human life is another; this is in a state of preparation, but it will soon ascend, and stand brightly and majestically in its place; and thus principle after principle will be established, column after column will be erected, till the spiritual house of the Lord shall be established in the tops of the mountain, and shall expand upon the eye of the beholder

far more beautiful than the Parthenon. And what then will be wanting? Only that the nations, in the language of prophecy, shall *flow* into it; only that the people should occupy it, and rejoice in it; and this is millennial glory. But, unless you have firm, unchangeable, immutable principles, it will be like a certain house that was built upon the sand; 'and the rain descended and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell, and great was the fall of it.'"

OBJECTION II. EXTREMELY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

"The practice of non-resistance, if not impossible for the great majority of Christans, is certainly extremely difficult, even for the most advanced. It seems like overstraining duty. It is urging on men so much more than they feel able to perform, that multitudes will faint under the burden, and abandon christianity altogether, as a system wholly beyond their reach. It is unwise to require what must discourage so many thousands from attempting *anything* at all, as avowed disciples of Christ."

ANSWER.—Who is to be the judge of what is possible? God, or man? Who is to judge what and how much shall be required! Jesus Christ, or his disciples? Are we to set at nought a *duty* because it seems to us difficult of performance? Are we to doubt that *God's grace is sufficient* for the weakest of his trusting children, to enable them to perform any duty HE may lay upon them? Are we to accommodate divine truth and duty to the convenience of our fellow men, in order to multiply superficial disciples? Are we to pare down and fritter away the requirements of our heavenly Father, for fear of discouraging and driving off half-hearted professors? Who is it that presumes to daub with such untempered mortar?

He must be a most dangerous latitudinarian. Is this the way in which Christ and his apostles built up the Church amid the violence of a contemptuous and persecuting world? Would it be any great misfortune to Christianity, if nine-tenths of its present worldly minded professors, convinced of the truth of the non-resistance doctrine, should honestly declare to the world, ☞ "Since *this is* Christianity, we cannot consistently profess to adhere to it, as its cross is greater than we are willing to bear?" Would not the world at that moment be nearer its conversion than now?

But why need we hold this language? God reigns and not man. He declares the law of perfect rectitude through his Son. That Son is the head of every man—the Lord and Master of all true disciples. He has enjoined the practice of non-resistance on his professed followers as their indispensable duty. He has promised to be with and aid them to the end of the world. If so, let us say at once, whether we *believe* in Christ or not. Whether we will endeavor to follow him and keep his sayings, or not. Whether we will try to do our duty, confiding in the proffered strength of Heaven, or not. If we will be Christians, let us *try* with all our might to do our *duty*, and see how far we shall be left to fall short. Let men earnestly *try* to carry out Christian non-resistance, with this full purpose of heart, and though they may experience the pain of the cross sometimes, they will soon rejoice in a crown of triumph. It is difficult always to do right in *this*, as it is in respect to other departments of duty; *and no more so.* There is no virtue which does not involve some painful and almost overwhelming trials. If we were to cast off all obligations that ever required the hazard of mortal life, we should

reject every single commandment of the living God. For there is not one that has not had its martyrs—and also its apostates under great temptation. But to the faithful how blessed is even death itself—if duty obliges the sacrifice? And to the obedient, the willingly cross-bearing, how true is it, that Christ's "*yoke is easy, and his burden light!*" It is only for us to resolve that we will TRY. All things are then found *possible*, which are *right*.

And what is there so discouraging to the humble and upright soul? Did not Jesus live and die the glorious exemplar of his own non-resistant precepts? Did not his apostles? Did not the primitive Christians for more than two centuries? Have I not brought up a host of witnesses, practically illustrating that under the most adverse circumstances it was generally even safer to carry out non-resistance principles than their opposite? Behold robbers looked out of countenance, and actually converted; ferocious banditti rendered harmless; wild savages inspired with permanent kindness; and all manner of evil overcome with good! Am I to be asked after all this—"What would you do if a robber should attack you? If an assassin should threaten your life? If a mob should break forth upon you? If a tribe of savages should beset your dwelling? If a foreign army should come against your land? If lawless soldiers should deal death and rapine about your neighborhood?" What would I do? If I did *right*—if I acted the Christian part—the wise and noble part, I should adhere to my non-resistance principles, and ten to one experience the most signal deliverances, and achieve the most glorious of all victories, in the conquest of my own passions and those of my assailants!

HOLLOWNESS OF THE OBJECTION.

But the extreme hollowness of the objection before us becomes at once obvious, when I turn the tables, and demand whether the practice of injurious resistance offers immunity from extreme trial, danger, hardship and suffering? How happens it that human beings enough to people from eighteen to forty such globes as ours, have perished in war? How happens it that blood enough has been shed by the sword to fill a harbor that would embosom at quiet anchor the combined navies of the world? Do these tremendous facts indicate that *resistance* is sustained without hardships, distresses and mortal agony? Let us contemplate the scenes of a single battle.

PASSAGE OF THE TRAUN.

"In 1809, in the campaign of Aspern and Wagram, Massena added to his former renown, and was one of the firm props of Napoleon's empire on those fiercely fought battle-fields. Previous to the battle of Aspern, after the battle of Eckmuhl, while Bonaparte was on the march for Vienna, chasing the Archduke before him, Massena had command of the advance guard. Following hard after the retreating army of the Archduke, as he had done before in Italy, he came at length to the river Traun, at Ebersberg, or Ebersdorf, a small village on its banks just above where it falls into the Danube. Here, for a while, an effectual stop seemed put to his victorious career, for this stream, opposite Ebersberg, was crossed by a single long, narrow, wooden bridge. From shore to shore, across the sand-banks, islands, &c., it was nearly half a mile, and a single narrow causeway traversed the entire distance to the bridge, which itself was about sixty rods long. Over this half mile of narrow

path the whole army was to pass and the columns to charge; for the impetous torrent could not be forded. But a gate closed the further end of the bridge, while the houses filled with soldiers enfiladed the entire opening, and the artillery planted on the heights over it commanded every inch of the narrow way. The high rolling ground along the river was black with the masses of infantry, sustained by terrific batteries of cannon, all trained on that devoted bridge, apparently enough in themselves to tear it in fragments. To crown the whole, an old castle frowned over the stream, on whose crumbling battlements cannon were so planted as to command the bridge. As if this were not enough to deter any man from attempting the passage, another row of heights, over which the road passed, rose behind the first, covered with pine trees, affording a strong position for the enemy to retire to if driven from their first. Thus defended, thirty-five thousand men, supported by eighty cannon, waited to see if the French would attempt to pass the bridge. Even the genius of Massena might have been staggered at the spectacle before him. It seemed like marching his army into the mouth of the volcano to advance on the awful batteries that commanded that long, narrow bridge. It was not like a sudden charge over a short causeway; but a steady march along a narrow defile through a perfect tempest of balls. But this was the key to Vienna, and the Marshall resolved to make the attempt—hoping that Lannes, who was to cross some distance further up, would aid him by a movement on the enemy's flank. The Austrians had foolishly left four battalions on the side from which the French approached. These were first attacked, and being driven from their positions, were forced along the causeway at

the point of the bayonet, and on the bridge followed by the pursuing French. But the moment the French column touched the bridge, those hitherto silent batteries opened their dreadful fire on its head. It sank like a sand bank that caves under the torrent. To advance seemed impossible; but the heroic Cohorn, flinging himself in front, cheered them on, and they returned to the charge, driving like an impetous torrent over the bridge.

"Amid the confusion and chaos of the fight between these flying battalions and their pursuers, the Austrians on the shore saw the French colors flying, and fearing the irruption of the enemy with their friends, closed the gate and poured their tempest of cannon balls on friend and foe alike. The carnage then became awful. Smitten in front by the deadly fire of their friends, and pressed behind with the bayonets of their foes, those battalions threw themselves into the torrent below, or were trampled under foot by the steadily advancing column. Amid the explosion of amunition wagons in the midst, blowing men into the air, and the crashing fire of the enemy's cannon, the French beat down the gate and palisades and rushed with headlong speed into the streets and village. But here, met by fresh battalions in front, and swept by a destructive cross-fire from the houses, while the old castle hurled its storm of lead on their heads, these brave soldiers were compelled to retire, leaving two-thirds of their number stretched on the pavement. But Massena ordered up fresh battalions, which, marching through the tempest that swept the bridge joined their companions, and regaining the village, stormed the castle itself. Along the narrow lanes that led to it the dead lay in swathes, and no sooner did the mangled head of the column reach the castle walls, than it disappeared before the dreadful

fire from the battlements as if it sunk into the earth. Strengthened by a new reinforcement, the dauntless French returned to the assault, and battering down the doors, compelled the garrison to surrender. The Austrian army, however, made good their position on the pine-covered ridge behind the village, and disputed every inch of ground with the most stubborn resolution. The French cavalry, now across, came on a plunging gallop through the streets of the village, trampling on the dead and dying, and amid the flames of the burning houses, and through the smoke that rolled over their pathway, hurried on with exulting shouts and rattling armor to the charge. Still the Austrians held out, till threatened with a flank attack they were compelled to retreat.

"There was not a more desperate passage in the whole war than this. Massena was compelled to throw his brave soldiers, whether dead or wounded, into the stream, to clear a passage for the columns. Whole companies falling at a time, they choked up the way and increased the obstacles to be overcome. These must be sacrificed, or the whole shattered column that was maintaining their desperate position on the farther side be annihilated. It was an awful spectacle to see the advancing soldiers, amid the most destructive fire, themselves pitch their wounded comrades, while calling out most pitiously to be spared, by scores and hundreds into the torrent. Le Grand fought nobly that day. Amid the choked-up defile and deadly fire of the batteries, he fearlessly pressed on, and in answer to the advice of his superior officer, deigned only the stern reply, '*Room for the head of my columns—none of your advice*;' and rushed up to the very walls of the castle. The nature of the contest, and the narrow bridge and streets in which it raged, gave

to the field of battle the most horrid aspect. The dead lay in heaps and ridges piled one across the other, mangled and torn in the most dreadful manner by the hoofs of the cavalry and the wheels of the artillery which were compelled to pass over them. TWELVE THOUSAND men thus lay heaped, packed and trampled together, while across them was stretched burning rafters and timbers which wrung still more terrible cries and shrieks from the dying mass. Even Bonaparte, when he arrived, shuddered at the appalling sight, and turned with horror from the scene. The streets were one mass of mangled, bleeding, trampled men, overlaid with burning ruins."—*American Review.*

Such was one of the world's ten thousand bloody conflicts. Suppose all the courage and endurance displayed on this horrible occasion could be brought into the service of peace and non-resistance! Should we hear any more of the extreme difficulty, if not impossibility, of carrying out the doctrine? Suppose these soldiers to have been devoted Christian non-resistants, scattered over the whole earth; and suppose them exposed to all the robberies, assaults and batteries, abuses, injuries and insults by any means likely to fall to their lot; and then, let our objector tell us how much harder their service would be, in the army of the Prince of Peace, than that of the Prince of murderers! The truth is, men can endure almost any thing they *choose*. What they have endured as the servants of sin, is a proof of what they are capable of enduring for righteousness' sake. The latter service requires not a thousandth part of the physical and mental suffering of the former. How flimsy then is the objection we are considering! Let it never be repeated by any man calling himself a Christian. A true heart, a sound prin-

ciple of action, and a conscientious will, can never find Christian non-resistance either an unattainable or an unsupportable virtue.

OBJECTION III.—MORE DIFFICULT IN SMALL THAN LARGE MATTERS.

"The practice of non-resistance is more difficult in small than large matters. It is not in abstaining from war and battle, or in enduring great and notorious injuries with forbearance, that non-resistance imposes the heaviest burdens. Men gather strength in such cases from the consciousness of public admiration and sympathy,—and even from the magnitude of the conflict and the consequent glory of a triumph. Extraordinary events and occasions inspire an extraordinary enthusiasm, power and firmness of purpose. But in every-day life, where people pass through a thousand trials, consuming to the vital spirits of their being, unnoticed, unsympathized with, unpitied and uncared for, it is by no means so easy to endure the mean, vexatious aggressions, wrongs and insults of *petty injurers*. But your doctrine obliges the abused wife of a brutal husband, and the insulted and smitten victim of insolent scoundrelism, to refrain from defensive violence, and even from prosecutions at law, at least under the *existing type* of human government. It does not appear that you would allow even a mob to be repelled with military force, or so much as a demand to be made on the government for the protection of one's property, family or life. It is this extreme and intolerable *nicety* of your doctrine to which I object, as much as to any thing about it."

ANSWER.

There is truth in the assertion that a practical ex-

emplification of non-resistance in the small matters of every-day life, is more difficult than in great matters on extraordinary occasions. And is not this true of all the great virtues enjoined in Law or Gospel? It may be easier to eschew idolatry, adultery, fornication, murder, robbery, theft, falsehood, covetousness, &c., in the open gaze of public scrutiny and public opinion, even under the mightiest temptation, than in private unobserved life. It may be easier to suffer the martyrdom of death before a gaping and amazed, perhaps *admiring* multitude, than the petty martyrdom of a taunt, a kick, a cuff, or a wrung nose, of which the multitude know nothing, and for which they might care as little. Be it so. Does this change principle, or abrogate duty? What is right? What *ought* we all to do in *small* as well as *large* matters? These are the questions to settle. Not what may chance to be most convenient, or easy, or comfortable, or self-indulgent under momentary temptations. We have already settled them, so far as respects the duty *never to resist injury with injury.* Is indulgence asked for the commission of daily violations of this duty, or occasional violations of it in what are called small matters? Go demand indulgence to commit violations of the ten commandments in small matters. Plead how difficult it is in *every-day life* not to *lie* a *little*, *deceive* a *little*, *defraud* a *little*, *extort* a *little*, *hate* your neighbour a *little*, *steal* a *little*, be *murderous* a *little*, *idolatrous* a *little*, and *lascivious* a *little.* Get your indulgence from Heaven for all this, and then doubtless an indulgence will not be withheld to resist injury with injury a *little*, and to render evil for evil a *little*, in ordinary matters. Till then, the *law* and *standard* of righteousness must not be relaxed to suit human convenience. *Duty* must be insisted on

without abatement, and whoever exhibits weakness, imperfection, frailty, sin, must bear the shame and condemnation.

It is in these *small matters* that every virtue suffers its greatest betrayals. A continual dropping wears the hardest stone. A continual unscrupulousness in little things undermines all moral principle. The ocean is made up of drops. Righteousness is an aggregate of the *littles* of life. He that is faithless habitually in small matters is not to be depended on in great matters. He *may*, or may *not* do right. A principal reason why public institutions, laws and measures are so repugnant to justice and humanity, is that the individual consciences of the people, in the small matters of ordinary life, are habitually unscrupulous. If, then, non-resistance is to be insisted on at all, as a duty, it is to be insisted on in small matters as well as large.

And after all that may be said of the difficulty of practising it, we know that it has been and *can* be practised. Nothing is wanting but the *will* to *try*. I will add to the numerous illustrations already given, a few others relating chiefly to individual affairs, and the so-called *small matters* of life.

THE PROFANE SWEARER REPROVED AND SUBDUED.

Mr. Deering, a puritan minister, being once at a public dinner, a gallant young man sat on the opposite side of the table, who, besides other vain discourse, broke out into profane swearing, for which Mr. Deering gravely and sharply reproved him. The young man, taking this as an affront, immediately threw a glass of beer in his face. Mr. Deering took no notice of the insult; but wiped his face, and continued eating as before. The young gen-

tleman presently renewed his profane conversation, and Mr. Deering reproved him as before,—upon which, but with more rage and violence, he flung another glass of beer in his face. Mr. Deering continued unmoved, still showing his zeal for the glory of God, by bearing the insult with Christian meekness and humble silence. This so astonished the young gentleman, that he rose from the table, fell on his knees, and asked Mr. Deering's pardon; and declared, that if any of the company offered him similar insults, he would stab them with his sword. Here was practically verified the New Testament maxim: "Be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with good"—Rom. 12: 21.—*Anonymous.*

THE CHRISTIAN SLAVE AND HIS ENEMY.

The following was first published in the London Christian Observer:—

A slave in one of the West Indies, who had originally come from Africa, having been brought under the influence of religious instruction, became singularly valuable to his owner, on account of his integrity and general good conduct. After some time his master raised him to a situation of some consequence in the management of his estate: and on one occasion, wishing to purchase twenty additional slaves, employed him to make the selection, giving him instruction to choose those who were strong and likely to make good workmen. The man went to the slave market and commenced his scrutiny. He had not long surveyed the multitude offered for sale, before he fixed his eye upon an old decrepit slave, and told his master that he must be one. The poor fellow begged that he might be indulged; when the dealer remarked, that if they were about to buy twenty, he

would give them that man in the bargain. The purchase was accordingly made, and the slaves were conducted to the plantation of their master; but upon none did the selecter show half the attention and care, that he did upon the poor old decrepit African. He took him to his own habitation, and laid him upon his own bed; he fed him at his own table, and gave him drink out of his own cup; when he was cold he carried him into the sunshine; and when he was hot, he placed him under the shade of the cocoa-nut tree. Astonished at the attention this confidential slave bestowed upon a fellow-slave, his master interrogated him upon the subject. He said, "You could not take so much interest in the old man but for some special reason: he is a relation of yours; perhaps your father?" "No, massa," answered the poor fellow, "he no my fader." "He is then an elder brother? "No, massa, he no my broder!" "Then he is an uncle, or some other relation?" "No, massa, he no be my kindred at all, nor even my friend!" "Then," asked the master, "on what account does he excite your interest?" "He my enemy, massa," replied the slave; "he sold me to the slave dealer; and my Bible tell me, when my enemy hunger, feed him, and when he thirst, give him drink."

HOW TO OVERCOME EVIL.

"I once had a neighbour, who, though a clever man, came to me one hay day, and said, 'Esquire White, I want you to come and get your geese away. 'Why,' said I, 'what are my geese doing?' 'They pick my pigs' ears when they are eating, and drive them away, and I will not have it.' 'What can I do?' said I. 'You must yoke them.' 'That I have not time to do now,' said I;

I do not see but they must run.' 'If *you* do not take care of them, I shall,' said the clever shoemaker in anger. 'What do you say, Esq. White?' 'I cannot take care of them now, but I will pay you for all damages.' 'Well,' said he, 'you will find that a hard thing, I guess.'

So off he went, and I heard a terrible squalling among the geese. The next news from the geese was, that three of them were missing. My children went, and found them terribly mangled and dead, and thrown into the bushes.

'Now,' said I, 'all keep still, and let me punish him.' In a few days, the shoemaker's hogs broke into my corn. I saw them, but let them remain a long time. At last I drove them all out, and picked up the corn which they had torn down, and fed them with it in the road. By this time the shoemaker came in great haste after them.

'Have you seen any thing of my hogs?' said he. 'Yes, sir, you will find them yonder, eating some corn which they tore down in my field.' 'In your field?' 'Yes sir,' said I, 'hogs love corn, you know—they were made to eat.' 'How much mischief have they done?' 'O, not much,' said I.

Well, off he went to look, and estimated the damage to be equal to a bushel and a half of corn.

'Oh, no,' said I, 'it can't be.' 'Yes,' said the shoemaker,' 'and I will pay you every cent of damage.' 'No,' replied I, 'you shall pay me nothing. My geese have been a great trouble to you.'

The shoemaker blushed, and went home. The next winter, when we came to settle, the shoemaker determined to pay me for my corn. 'No,' said I, 'I shall take nothing.'

After some talk, we parted; but in a day or two, I met

him in the road,' and fell into conversation in the most friendly manner. But when I started on, he seemed loath to move, and I paused. For a moment both of us were silent. At last he said, 'I have something laboring on my mind.' 'Well, what is it?' 'Those geese. I killed three of your geese and shall never rest until you know how I feel. I am sorry.' And the tears came in his eyes. 'Oh well,' said I, 'never mind, I suppose my geese were provoking.'

I never took any thing of him for it; but whenever my cattle broke into his field after this, he seemed glad—because he could show how patient he could be.

'Now,' said the narrator, 'conquer yourself, and you can conquer with kindness where you can conquer in no other way.'"—*Anonymous.*

HENRY C. WRIGHT AND HIS ASSAILANT.

The following incident in the life of Henry C. Wright shows his admirable consistency, and the salutary influence of non-resistance on the offender. He was in a hotel in Philadelphia, and there engaged in a conversation on non-resistance. An officer present became enraged and struck him. Mr. Wright took no notice of the assault, but proceeded with his remarks. In a few moments the officer struck him again. Friend Wright still preserved his equinimity, and continued the conversation. His assailant struck him a third time, and nearly knocked him down. He recovered himself, and though much injured by the blows of his opponent, took him by the hand and said, "I feel no unkindness towards you, and hope soon to see you at my house." He then left the company and returned home. Mr. Wright saw his assailant much sooner than he expected, for he was

called up at dawn next morning, by the very man who had struck him the previous evening. He exclaimed, as he entered the house, "can you forgive me? I have been in agony all night. I thought you would strike again, or I never should have struck you." "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."

"He that, unshrinking and without a groan,
Bears the first wound, may finish all the war
With mere courageous silence, and come off CONQUEROR."—*Watts.*

McCree.

THE VICTORIOUS LITTLE BOY.

I had the following anecdote from a gentleman of veracity. A little boy in Connecticut, of remarkably serious mind and habits, was ordinarily employed about a mechanic's shop, where nearly all the hands were addicted to the common use of intoxicating liquors. The lad had imbibed temperance principles, and though often invited could never be induced to partake with any of the shop's crew. At length his teacher in the Sunday school, in conversation on certain non-resistant texts of scripture, had awakened his mind to that subject, and he very conscientiously avowed his determination to try to live in accordance with this great Christian doctrine. Three or four of the harder drinkers in the shop, somewhat piqued at such precocious piety and scrupulousness of conscience, resolved to humble the lad, or at least put his new notions to the test. They resolved to force a dram of rum down his throat by some means. Seizing an opportunity when he was left alone in the shop with themselves, they invited him to drink. He refused. They then told him they should

compel him. He remained calm and unmoved. They threatened him with violence. Still he neither seemed angry nor attempted to escape, nor evinced the least disposition to yield; but insisted that it was wicked, and he could not do it. They then laid hold of him, a man at each arm, while the third held the bottle ready to force it into his mouth. Still their victim remained meek and firm, declaring that he had never injured *them*, and never should, but that God would be his friend and protector, however they might abuse him. The man who held the fatal bottle, up to that moment resolute in his evil purpose, was so struck by the non-resisting dignity and innocence of the lad, that, as he afterwards confessed almost with tears, he actually felt unable to raise his hand. Twice he assayed to lift the bottle, as he placed the nose of it in the child's mouth, but his arm refused to serve him. Not the least resistance was made, in this stage of the proceeding otherwise then by a meek protesting look; yet the ringleader himself was overcome in his feelings, and gave over the attempt, declaring that he could not and would not injure such an innocent, conscientious, good hearted boy. Such is moral power. Such is the strength by which evil may, sometimes at least, be overcome with good.

COLONY OF PRACTICAL CHRISTIANS.

The following is another extract from the writings of Lydia M. Child. It needs no commendation. It will speak to the better feelings of the soul, and leave its sweet odor there.

"The highest gifts my soul has received during its world pilgrimage, have often been bestowed by those who were poor, both in money and intellectual cultivation.

Among these donors, I particularly remember a hard-working, uneducated mechanic, from Indiana or Illinois. He told me he was one of thirty or forty New Englanders, who, twelve years before, had gone out to settle in the western wilderness. They were mostly neighbors, and had been drawn to unite together in emigration from a general unity of opinion on various subjects. For some years previous, they had been in the habit of meeting occasionally at each others' houses, to talk over their duties to God and man, in all simplicity of heart. Their library was the Gospel, their priesthood the inward light. There were then no anti-slavery societies; but thus taught, and reverently willing to learn, they had no need of such agency, to discover their duties to the enslaved. The efforts of peace societies had reached this secluded band only in broken echoes; and non-resistance societies had no existence. But with the volume of the Prince of Peace, and hearts open to his influence, what need had they of preambles and resolutions?

"Rich in God-culture, this little band started for the far West. Their inward homes were blooming gardens; they made their outward in a wilderness. They were industrious and frugal, and all things prospered under their hands. But soon wolves came near the fold, in the shape of reckless unprincipled adventurers; believers in force and cunning, who acted according to their creed. The colony of practical Christians spoke of their depredations in terms of gentlest remonstrance, and repaid them with unvarying kindness. They went farther—they openly announced, 'You may do us what evil you choose; we will return nothing but good.' Lawyers came into the neighborhood, and offered their services to

settle disputes. They answered, 'We have no need of you. As neighbors, we receive you in the most friendly spirit; but for us your occupation has ceased to exist.' 'What will you do, if rascals burn your barns, and steal your harvests?' 'We will return good for evil. We believe this is the highest truth, and therefore the best expediency.'

"When the rascals heard this, they considered it a marvellous good joke, and said and did many provoking things, which to them seemed witty. Bars were taken down in the night, and cows let into the cornfields. The Christians repaired the damage as well as they could, put the cows in the barn, and at twilight drove them gently home; saying, 'Neighbor, your cows have been in my field. I have fed them well during the day, but I would not keep them all night, lest the children should suffer for their milk.'

"If this was fun, those who planned the joke found no heart to laugh at it. By degrees, a visible change came over these troublesome neighbors. They ceased to cut off horses' tails, and break the legs of poultry. Rude boys would say to a younger brother, 'Don't throw that stone, Bill! When I killed the chicken last week, did'nt they send it to mother, because they thought chicken-broth would be good for poor Mary? I should think you'd be ashamed to throw stones at *their* chickens.' Thus was evil overcome with good; till not one was found to do them wilful injury.

"Years passed on, and saw them thriving in worldly substance, beyond their neighbors, yet beloved by all. From them the lawyer and the constable obtained no fees. The sheriff stammered and apologized, when he took their hard earned goods in payment for the war-tax.

They mildly replied, 'Tis a bad trade friend. Examine it in the light of conscience and see if it be not so.' But while they refused to pay such fees and taxes, they were liberal to a proverb in their contributions for all useful and benevolent purposes.

"At the end of ten years, the public lands, which they had chosen for their farms, were advertised for sale at auction. According to custom, those who had settled and cultivated the soil, were considered to have a right to bid it in at the government price; which at that time was $1 25 per acre. But the fever of land speculation then chanced to run unusually high. Adventurers from all parts of the country were flocking to the auction; and capitalists in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, were sending agents to buy up western lands. No one supposed that custom, or equity, would be regarded. The first day's sale showed that speculation ran to the verge of insanity. Land was eagerly bought in at seventeen, twenty-five, and forty dollars an acre. The Christian colony had small hope of retaining their farms. As first settlers, they had chosen the best land; and persevering industry had brought it into the highest cultivation. Its market-value was much greater than the acres already sold at exorbitant prices. In view of these facts, they had prepared their minds for another remove into the wilderness, perhaps to be again ejected by a similar process. But the morning their lot was offered for sale, they observed with grateful surprise, that their neighbors were everywhere busy among the crowd, begging and expostulating: 'Don't bid on *these* lands! These men have been working hard on them for ten years. During all that time, they never did harm to man or brute. They are always ready to do good for

evil. They are a blessing to any neighborhood. It would be a sin and a shame to bid on *their* land. Let them go at the government price.'

"The sale came on; the cultivators of the soil offered $1 25; intending to bid higher if necessary. But among all that crowd of selfish, reckless speculators, *not one bid over them!* Without one opposing voice, the fair acres returned to them! I do not know a more remarkable instance of evil overcome with good. The wisest political economy lies folded up in the maxims of Christ."

THE AVENGER STAYED.

I will add one more impressive illustration, and close. I copy from the Advocate of Peace for April, 1845, which appears to have quoted from the History of Danish Missions:

"The history of the Danish missions in Greenland is well known. Hans Egede, a man of apostolic benevolence and zeal, was the pioneer in those efforts to Christianize the wild and savage wanderer of the frozen north; and among his successors was his grandson, Hans Egede Saabye, from whose interesting diary we select the following tale of vengeance sternly purposed, but graciously turned into love by the power of the gospel.

"The law or custom of Greenland requires every murder, especially that of a father, to be avenged by the nearest of kin. Some twenty years before the arrival of Saabye, a man was murdered under circumstances of great atrocity, in the presence of his own son. The boy, only thirteen years old, was too young to defend his father, but he did not forget the debt of vengeance due

to his murderer. Fleeing for his own safety into a remote part of the country, he there fanned in his bosom the secret flame for twenty-five years, and waited only for an opportunity to let it burst forth in full and fierce revenge. The murderer was a man of so much influence, and surrounded with so many adherents ready for his defence, that the son feared to attack him; but, having persuaded a number of his own relatives to accompany him, he started at length on his long cherished purpose of vengeance, and came in quest of his victim near the residence of Saabye. The houses in Greenland are a species of common property. The people quit them during their short summer, and on returning the next winter, take possession of any one they may chance to find unoccupied. Winter was now beginning to stretch his icy arms over the north; but the avenger found no shelter for himself and his associates in the work of vengeance. Only one was vacant, and that belonged to the preacher of peace and forgiveness; but Saabye, though well apprized of his purpose, let him have the house, and treated him with his wonted courtesy and kindness. These attentions touched the avenger's heart; and he came to thank Saabye, and repeated his visits so often, that he apologized at length for their frequency by saying, 'You are so amiable that I cannot keep away from you.' After the lapse of several weeks, he said, 'I should like to know something of that great Lord of Heaven, about whom you say so much; and some of my relations wish to learn too.' Saabye granted his request, and found ten or twelve of the company anxious for instruction. He sent a catechist to live with them, and was much gratified at their progress, especially that of

the avenger, who frequently left his fishing to hear instruction, and at length resolved to ask for baptism.

In the month of May, Kunnuk came to Saabye, and said, 'Teacher, will you baptize me? You know I'm obedient. I know God; and my wife, as well as I, wishes to become a believer.' 'Yes,' replied the preacher, 'you know something of God. You know he is good; you see how he loves you, and desires to make you happy; but he desires also to have you obey him.' 'I *do* love him,' earnestly rejoined the avenger; I *will* obey him.' 'But,' answered Saabye, 'if you wish to obey him, you must kill nobody. You have often heard his command, *thou shalt not kill.*'

Kunnuk shook his head in great emotion, and only said, half to himself, 'hard doctrine; hard doctrine!'—'Hear me, good Kunnuk,' continued the man of God. 'I know you have come to avenge the murder of your father; this you must not do if you wish to become a believer.' 'But,' retorted the avenger with a flash of indignation gleaming from his eye, 'he murdered my father, my own father! I saw it, but could not help him; and now I *must* punish the murderer.'—'You grieve me!' said the man of peace. 'How?' asked the avenger. 'Because you seem resolved to murder.' 'Only him who deserves to die.'—'But the great Lord of Heaven says, *thou shalt not kill.*' 'I *will* not – only *him.*'—'But you must not kill even him. Have you forgotten how often during the winter, you heard this command: '*Avenge not thyself, but rather give place unto wrath; for vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.*'—'But,' asked the avenger, 'shall the wicked murder with impunity?'—'No; he shall not; God will punish him.' 'When?'—'Perhaps in this world; but

certainly at the day of judgment, when he will reward every one according to his deeds.'—'That is so long,' replied Kunnuk; 'my countrymen and relations will blame me, if I do not myself avenge my father now.'—'If you did not know the will of God, I should say nothing; but now I must not be silent.' 'This is hard!' said the avenger. 'What shall I do?'—'You must not kill him; you must even forgive him.' 'Forgive him!' exclaimed the avenger. 'Your doctrine is very strange and difficult.'—'The doctrine,' rejoined the preacher, 'is not mine, but Christ's.'

"Kunnuk sighed deeply, but made no reply; and Saabye continued, 'perhaps your father was not innocent; he too may have killed somebody.' 'As to that,' replied Kunnuk, 'I do not know. I only know that this man deserves to die.' 'Well,' answered Saabye, turning to leave the avenger, 'I have done. Kill him, if you will; but remain an unbeliever, and expect his children one day to kill you in turn.' 'You are amiable no longer,' retorted the man of blood, 'you speak hard words.' 'No, Kunnuk,' replied the man of peace, 'I love you still, and therefore wish you not to sin against God, who will do justice both to you and your adversary.' Saabye turned to go; but Kunnuk cried after him, 'Stay, teacher: I will speak to my relations.'

His relations urged Kunnuk day after day to revenge, and threatened him with the curses of his kindred, and the scorn of his countrymen, if he shrunk from avenging his murdered father. The bosom of the son seemed a theatre of conflicting emotions. The preacher, in his visits to him, perceived the struggle, and, without taking any notice of the particular subject, read such portions of

Scripture, and such hymns as led to peaceful and forgiving thoughts. Some days after, Kunnuk returned to the preacher. His countenance, his manner, every thing about him, indicated a violent struggle. 'I will,' said he, 'I will *not;* I hear, and I do *not* hear. I never felt so before.' 'What will you,' asked the preacher, 'and what will you *not?*' 'I will forgive him, and I will *not* forgive him; I have no ears, and yet I have ears.' 'When you will *not* forgive, answered Saabye, 'then your unconverted heart speaks, and would dissuade you; and when you *will* forgive, then your better heart speaks. Which will you obey?' 'I was so moved,' said the avenger, 'when you spoke yesterday, that my heart wished to obey.' 'See, then, ought you not,' said Saabye, 'to feel that it is the voice of your heavenly Father speaking in your heart; he bids you be like him; and he giveth sunshine and showers to his foes as well as his friends. Think of your Saviour, too, and strive to resemble him. Did he ever hate his enemies, or return their curses on their own heads? When smitten, did he smite back? When persecuted from city to city, did he return evil upon his persecutors? When led to the cross like a lamb to the slaughter, did he open his mouth? Yes; but it was to pray for his murderers: *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*'

This appeal touched the avenger's heart; a tear stood in his eye; and earnestly he replied, 'Yes, yes, that was praiseworthy; but he was better than we.' 'Yes, infinitely better,' rejoined Saabye; 'but, if we have a good will, God will give us strength. Hear how a man like you and me can pray for his murderers.' The preacher then read the martyrdom of Stephen; and Kunnuk, drying his eyes, said, 'Wicked men! but he is happy; he is

its spirit so heavenly, its exemplification so beautiful, its fruits so refreshing, and its achievements so glorious! What if it demand a strict discipline; what if it require some severe exertions; what if impose some manly endurance; what if it offer an opportunity to perform some exploits of moral heroism; shall it therefore be unattractive to great souls? Nay, rather let it seem the more worthy of a holy and generous enthusiasm. Let its calls for volunteers appeal more thrillingly to a noble ambition—an ambition to be and do something worthy of our divine Parentage—worthy of the Love that has purchased our redemption with the tears and groans and blood of the cross—worthy of immortality—worthy of living and dying for. To save one life, to recover one lost brother, to make one heart holy and happy—or even to qualify ourselves by self-denial for the indwelling Spirit of the Highest—is infinitely more worthy of a whole life's cares and vigils, than all the wealth, pomp and splendor which the world's favorite destroyers ever acquired by the sword. "God forbid that we should glory in any thing save the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."

"How hardly man this lesson learns,
To smile and bless the hand that spurns;
To see the blow—to feel the pain,
But render only love again.
This spirit not to earth is given;
ONE had it—HE came from heaven.
Reviled, rejected, and betrayed,
No curse he breathed, no plaint he made,
But when in death's deep pang he sighed,
Prayed for his murderers and died."—*Edmiston*

CHAPTER VII.

NON-RESISTANCE IN RELATION TO GOVERNMENT.

Is Non-Resistance for or against human government?—Human government *de facto*—Objection—answer—Constitutions of Massachusetts and the United States—extracts—Why not participate to reform?—Cannot *lie* and commit *perjury*—Delegated power to declare war—Letters of marque and reprisal, piracy—Legal and political action—How to reform government—Injurious force not essential to government—Under what circumstances this country might have a non-resistant government—View of the present order of things, and remedy—Extract from M. Guizot's Lectures—Conclusion.

IS NON-RESISTANCE FOR OR AGAINST HUMAN GOVERNMENT?

I propose to occupy the present chapter in treating on the relation of non-resistance to human government. Is non-resistance, as defined and expounded in this work, *for* or *against* human government *per se?* This depends on what sense is given to the adjective *human* when joined to the noun *government.* If *human* government be understood to imply or presuppose an *inherent, original,* ABSOLUTE power in *man* to make laws and exercise discretionary control *over* man, non-resistance is *against* it. It denies any such inherent, original, *absolute* power in *man,* and refers it to *God* only. In this sense all rightful government is essentially *divine;* man being ever a *subject*—not a *governor.* And whenever he assumes to *require* any thing repugnant to the divine law, he is a

rebel against God, and a usurper over his co-equal fellow man. Man cannot rightfully legislate or govern *insubordinately* to his Creator. He can only govern *under* and *with* the divine sanction. If this position needs any defence, non-resistants are prepared to maintain it against the world. None, however, but atheists and *would-be Deicides*—[God-killers]—the genuine *no-governmentists*, can be reckless enough to controvert it.

But if *human* government be understood to imply only *divine government* clothed in *human forms*, and administered by *human organizations*, with merely incidental human imperfections, non-resistance is *for* it *per se*. It has no *necessary* opposition to it whatever. It recognizes man as by nature a social being. It sees the ties and dependencies of husband and wife, parent and child, friend and neighbor, smaller and larger community; and is essentially friendly to all social organizations, founded on love to God and man. Human government in this sense would be an organization of society *Constitutionally* deferential to the highest known law of God. It would disclaim and denounce all assumption of power to set up and enforce any law, regulation, or usage in violation of the natural equality and brotherhood of mankind. It would inscribe on its main pillars, ☞ *No resistance of injury with injury—no rendering of evil for evil—evil can be overcome only with good!* It would pledge its entire religious, intellectual, moral, physical, industrial and pecuniary resources to the maintenance of the right education, good conduct, comfortable subsistence and general welfare of all its population. It would declare and treat all its officers as *servants* of their brethren, entitled to no other remuneration than an equal subsistence and dividend of general profits with the mass of

unofficials. It would know no such thing as *a government craft*, and have no separate interests of its functionaries to be fattened at the expense of their constituents. It would disclaim all *authority* of its *own*, and rest all its legislation, its judicial decrees, and its executive proceedings on their intrinsic rectitude and fitness to promote the public good. It would put off all external display, pomp, parade and childish insignia, and be a plain simple, business *concern*, provided with all things decent and convenient for its necessary use, and nothing more. It would incur no expense for distinction's sake—for show and dazzle. Man would make no wicked and foolish attempt to *appear a god* to his fellow-worms. The most exalted servant of the people would need to dwell in no better house, eat no better food, drink no costlier liquids, wear no richer livery, ride in no better carriage, under a wise and righteous government than would be proper for every common citizen. He would be ashamed to wish anything better. "*He that will be chief among you shall be as he that doth serve.*" This is the pattern for the head of a Christian republic. Such a government would verify the prophetic prediction: "*I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness. Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders.*" Such a government there will *yet be* throughout the earth. It is coming in the dim distant future. Christian non-resistance is its forerunner, and will hail its arrival amid the welcome shouts of an enlightened world. Men will then look back on our present semi-barbarous governments, much as a philosopher now does on the picture of an Indian Sachem, smeared with paint, ornamented with feathers and wampum, and resting on his war club or

tomahawk. Understanding then by *human* government *only* divine government *humanized* in its forms, applications and details, non-resistance is decidedly *for* it *per se*.

HUMAN GOVERNMENT DE FACTO.

But is it *for* human government *as it is de facto?* This is now the practical question. No. Why not? Because it cannot be both *for* and *against itself*. *Non-resistance* cannot be for *war*, *capital punishment*, *slavery* and all sorts of *penal injury*. Nor can it be FOR any government which is fundamentally FOR *these things*. These things are not reconcileable with non-resistance. Its adherents cannot therefore be voluntary participators *in* existing governments. Not because they are opposed to government *per se*; but because they are utterly opposed to these fundamental *evils*, with which all that is good in existing governments is inseparably interwoven. They demand a removal of these anti-Christian articles from our national and state constitutions, before they can voluntarily participate in the government. Are they right in assuming this stand?

OBJECTION.

"*No.*" says the objector, "you are not clearly right, to my apprehension, in charging our national and state constitution with being *necessarily* for *war*, *capital punishment*, *slavery* and *penal injury*. But if you are right in *this*, you are *positively wrong* in refusing to participate in the government till these things are expunged. If you will neither hold office, vote, nor bring actions at law under the government, how do you expect these evils are to be eradicated! You ought to take part in the government, if for nothing else, to effect the necessary

amendments in our constitutions. Who is to remove these evils, if *you*, who see and feel them, refuse to lift a finger to dislodge them? Stay in the government and reform it. You frustrate your own aims by non-participation."

ANSWER.

War, capital punishment, slavery and many penal injuries have prevailed in the United States. They still prevail. Are they *contrary* to the fundamental law? Do they not flourish under its positive sanctions? I shall not go far out of my way to establish facts naked to universal observation. Without meddling with fine spun arguments, designed to show that the federal constitution is an anti-slavery instrument, or anticipating any ingenious plea which might be offered demonstrate its consonance with Christianity in respec to capital punishmert, I shall content myself with presenting an extract from the Constitution of Massachusetts, (a state in the vanguard of human improvement,) and two or three from that of the United States. These will show whether non-resistance can endorse even republican constitutions —not to mention the written and unwritten ones of the old world.

EXTRACT FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF MASSACHUSETTS.

"The Governor of this Commonwealth, for the time being, shall be the commander in chief of the army and navy, and of all the military forces of the State, by sea and land; and shall have full power, by himself, or by any commander, or other officer and officers, from time to time, to *train*, *instruct*, *exercise* and *govern* the militia and navy; and for the special defence and safety of the

Commonwealth, *to assemble in martial array, and put in warlike posture*, the inhabitants thereof; and to lead and conduct them, and with them to encounter, repel, resist, expel, and pursue, *by force of arms*, as well by sea as by land, within or without the limits of this Commonwealth, and also to KILL, SLAY, AND DESTROY, if necessary, and conquer, by all fitting ways, enterprizes and means, *whatsoever*, all and every such person or persons as shall, at any time hereafter, in a hostile manner, attempt or enterprise the destruction, invasion, detriment or annoyance of this Commonwealth; and to use and exercise, over the army and navy, and over the militia in actual service, the law martial, in time of war and invasion, and also in time of rebellion declared by the Legislature to exist, as occasion shall necessarily require; and to take and surprise, by all ways and means *whatsoever*, all and every such person or persons, with their ships, arms, ammunition, and other goods, as shall, in a hostile manner, invade, or attempt the invading, conquering, or annoying this Commonwealth; and that the Governor be entrusted with all these and other powers, incident to the offices of captain general and commander in chief and admiral, to be exercised agreeably to the rules and regulations of the Constitution, and the laws of the land, and not otherwise."

EXTRACTS FROM THE U. S. CONSTITUTION.

"The Congress shall have power—to define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offences against the laws of nations.

To declare war; grant letters of marque and reprisal: and make rules concerning captures on land and water.

To raise and support armies.

'To provide and maintain a navy.

To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and invasions.

To provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia," &c.

"The President shall be commander in chief of the army and navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several States, when called into actual service."

His oath shall be:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States; and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

"This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the SUPREME LAW of the land."

These extracts ought to make it clear to every man's apprehension that our State and National Constitutions authorize, provide for, and sanction war, preparations for war, and all the abominations incident to or consequent upon the murderous military system. The objector has no ground to stand on here.

WHY NOT PARTICIPATE IN ORDER TO REFORM?

But to come to the second part of the objection. If the non-resistants are right, as to the fundamental, *military and penal* character of the government, the objector declares they are *positively wrong* in refusing to participate in the government till these things are expunged. He wishes to know how, or by whom, we expect these evils to be eradicated, if we will neither hold office, vote nor bring actions at law. He bids us stay in the govern-

ment to reform it; and tells us we frustrate our own aims by non-participation.

This will pass current with the mass of people for sound common sense; but I shall show it to be more specious than substantial. If our scruples related solely to minor details, and incidental defects in the existing governments, the objector's reasoning would be conclusive. For we do not exact absolute perfection, either theoretical or practical, in constitutions of government, as a condition of our participation in them. We can readily conceive of a radically Christian government with minor errors and defects in its details, and certainly with incidental abuses of administration arising out of human imperfection. In such governments we could conscientiously participate, and should feel bound to do so for the purpose of purifying them *entirely*, if possible, from errors and abuses.

But the governments now under notice are *radically, fundamentally* ANTI-CHRISTIAN. "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint." Military and injurious penal power is their very life-blood—the stamina of their existence. They are as repugnant to non-resistance, as pride is to humility, wrath to meekness, vengeance to forgiveness, death to life, destruction to salvation.

These Constitutions have the double character of *declarations and covenants.* They declare what is to be considered truth and duty, and are a solemn mutual covenant of the people with each other, as to what *may* or *shall* be done in their name. They are written out with great clearness and precision, so that no one may misunderstand them. When a man assents to them, or swears to support them, or acknowledges himself a party to the compact established by them, they become to all intents

and purposes *declarations* of what *he* regards as truth and duty, and a pledge on his part that he will faithfully co-operate in carrying them into full effect. If they do not declare his sentiments, he makes himself a *liar* by endorsing, subscribing, or assenting to them. If he does not honestly mean to co-operate in giving them practical efficacy, he *perjures* himself by solemnly engaging to support the compact.

CANNOT LIE AND COMMIT PERJURY.

Am I advised to *lie* and commit *perjury*, in order to reform an anti-Christian government? If I accept any office of destinction, I must swear or affirm to support the Constitution: not in *parts*, but *entire*. In fact, I cannot vote, without either actually taking such oath or affirmation, or at least *virtually* acknowledging myself to be under the highest obligations of allegiance. Government in this country is vested in the voters. They are leagued together by their common *declaration* of sentiments and mutual covenant—the Constitution—to conduct the government in a certain way, and to maintain its authority by military force. It seems to have been universally taken for granted that military force would be indispensable.

It is therefore a gross fraud and imposition for any man to appear at the ballot-box as a voter, who is at heart false to the Constitution, who does not mean in good faith to abide by and support it, and just as it is, till it can be constitutionally amended. This is what a non-resistant cannot do, without treason to the divine government; without trampling under foot the precepts of Jesus Christ.

Would the objector have me join an association of

persons who covenant that their governor shall be "commander in chief of their army and navy, and of all their military forces by sea and land?" Whose army, navy and military forces? *Mine?* Am I, a non-resistant, in company with a combination who have armies, navies and military forces? And do I agree that our chief servant shall command these? That he may lead them forth to "KILL, SLAY and DESTROY" our enemies! Am I to vote for such an officer, and agree to have him put under oath to do *such* things! A most exemplary non-resistant indeed! Should I not speedily convince the common mind that I was amazingly opposed to war and all its kindred deeds!

DELEGATED POWER TO DECLARE WAR.

Will the objector insist that I shall proclaim to all the world my assent and agreement as a co-governing citizen of the United States, that "Congress shall have power to DECLARE WAR?" *My* representatives have power to do this wicked thing, in *my* name at their discretion! Power to turn the whole nation into impious robbers, murderers and desolators of the earth! Power to declare all this *lawful, just* and *right*! Power to authorize the perpetration of all the crimes and cruelties of war! *Never.* I will not agree or consent to any such thing. It is an abomination. I will hold office on no such conditions, I will not be a voter on such conditions. I will join no no church or state, who hold such a creed or prescribe such a covenant for the subscription of their members.

LETTERS OF MARQUE AND REPRISAL PIRACY.

Much less will the objector persuade me to authorize any Congress of mine ever to grant those piratical com-

missions, called "letters of marque and reprisal." Defensive war on the home soil, to repel murderous invaders, though the most excusable of all war, is forbidden by Christianity. How much more these seven-fold abominations, called "letters of marque and reprisal!" What are they? Nothing but commissions to unprincipled buccaniers to rob, plunder, and murder defenceless people on the high seas. Their victims may be individually the most peaceable and honest people in the world; but if they belong to a certain nation, against which, for some foolish or wicked reason, Congress has declared war, their goods are made lawful plunder, and themselves the prey of sharkish voracity. Is a common highwayman to be held in universal abhorrence, and hung up by the neck on a gibbet, and yet are Christian people to authorize their Congress to grant letters of piracy! And will a man after agreeing that such things shall be perpetrated in his name, presume to go about preaching *peace* and *non-resistance?* Does the objector wish me to make myself supremely *ridiculous*, as well as *wicked?*

And yet, notwithstanding all this, I must be a member of the national organization, who are bound by this political creed and covenant. I must be a voter. I must vote for the President of the United States to be "commander in chief of our army and navy." I must agree to have him put under oath, faithfully to execute this office. I must myself be ready to accept of *this, that* and the *other* office, prefaced by an obligation to support the entire Constitution, war, slavery and all, as "the SUPREME LAW of the land!" And if IDOLATRY were a fundamental prescription of the compact, I must support *that* too! All this for the sake of wielding the necessary influence to

reform the government! Unless I *lie, perjure* myself, and sacrifice every particle of my non-resistant principle for the time being, in order to participate in the government *as it is*, I can never hope to see a Christian government established! I happen to see "*a more excellent ways*," ☞ FIDELITY TO PRINCIPLE.

LEGAL AND POLITICAL ACTION.

Many people seem to take for granted that *legal* and *political* action afford to *good men* indispensable instrumentalities for the promotion of moral reform, or at least for the maintenance of wholesome order in society. Hence we hear much said of the duty of enforcing certain penal laws, of voting for just rulers, and of rendering government "a terror to evil doers." Now I make no objection to any kind of legal or political action, which is truly *Christian* action. Nor do I deny that some local and temporary good has been done by prosecutions at law, voting in our popular elections, and exercising the functions of magistracy, under the prevailing system of human government. I contend that there is very *little* legal and political action under this system, which is *strictly* CHRISTIAN action. And I deny that professedly good men do half as much to *promote* as they do to *subvert* moral reform and wholesome order in society, by legal and political action. The common notions respecting these matters are extremely superficial, delusive and mischievous. Look at facts:

1. Is it not a *fact*, that men strenuous for legal coercion, who devote themselves to the prosecution of lawbreakers as an important duty, *generally* become incapable of benevolent, patient, suasory moral action? Do they not become *mere compulsionists?* Do they not be-

come disagreeable to humble minds, and objects of *defiance* to the lawless? Is not this *generally* the case? I am sure it is. Reliance on injurious penal force costs more than it comes to, as an instrumentality for the promotion of moral reform. It works only a *little less* mischievously in *morals* than in *religion*.

2. Is it not a *fact*, that equally good men are divided among all the rival political parties, and that, under pretence of doing their duty to God and humanity, they vote point blank *for* and *against* the *same* men and measures, mutually thwarting, as far as possible, each others' preferences? Every man knows this. Does God make it their duty to practice this sheer contradiction and hostility of effort at the ballot-box! Does enlightened humanity prompt it! No; there must be a *cheat* somewhere in the game. The Holy Ghost does not blaspheme the Holy Ghost; nor Satan cast out Satan. Either the men are not *good*, or their notions of duty are *false*.

3. Is it not a *fact* that the most scrupulously moral and circumspect men in all the rival political parties are uniformly found, with very rare exceptions, either among the rank and file of their party, or in the *inferior* offices? Are our wisest and best men of each party put forward as *leaders*? Are not the managers—the real wire-pullers —generally selfish, unscrupulous men? Whatever may be the exceptions, is not this the *general rule*? We have all seen that it *is*. How then is it to be accounted for, on the supposition that political action is so adapted to moral reform and wholesome order in society? The *facts* contradict the *theory*. The *good men* in political parties are not the *leaders*, but the *led*. They do not *use* political action to a noble end, but are themselves the

dupes and *tools* of immoral managers—put *up* or put *down*, *foremost* or *rearmost*, in the *centre* or on the *flank*, just as they will *show* and *count* to the best advantage. All they are wanted for is to *show* and *count* against the same class in the other party. Their *use* is to give *respectability*, *weight of character* and *moral capital* to their party. They are the "stool pigeons," the "decoy ducks," the *take-ins* of their managers. The way they are used and the game of iniquity played off, are the proofs of this. Yet this is what many simple souls call *having influence.*

4. Is it not a *fact* that of the very *few* high-toned moral men, who happen to get into the head quarters of political distinction, not one in ten escapes *contamination*, or utter *disgust?* And now what do all these *facts* prove? That under the present system of government, legal and political action is generally anti-Christian. That *political good men* are influential chiefly as *tools* for mischief. And that *non-political* good men are the most likely to render *legalists* and *politicians* DECENT in the affairs of government.

HOW TO REFORM GOVERNMENT.

Existing governments have their merits. They might be worse than they are. They are as good as the great mass of the people demand, or are capable of appreciating. If full grown Christian constitutions were proffered to them, they would vote them down with contempt. If we could cheat them into the reception of one, they would not know how to live under it. Governments are correct exponents of the aggregate religious light, moral sentiment and intellectual developement of the people living under them. People with a false and low religion,

a false and low morality, a low and undeveloped intellect, will have a corresponding false and low organization of society, false and low government! An Esquimaux, Hottentot, or New Hollander, would devise and administer an Esquimaux, Hottentot, or New Holland government. The reason why we have not a Christian government is, that our people are not in the aggregate a Christian people. The aggregate religion is far below the Christian standard. The aggregate conscience and moral sentiment of the people is semi-barbarous. And their aggregate intellect is not yet sufficiently improved by knowledge and discipline to see how low their religion and morality is. They are, therefore, not even *ashamed* of war and slavery. They do not see that these gross abominations are their disgrace and curse. We have got to enlighten them, expand their intellects, purify their moral sentiment, quicken their consciences, and reform their religious ideas. This is not to be done by voting at the polls, by seeking influential offices in the government, and binding ourselves to anti-Christian political compacts. It is to be done by pure Christian precepts faithfully inculcated, and pure Christian examples, on the part of those who have been favored to receive and embrace the highest truths. *They* must hold up the true standard, let their light shine, and patiently persevere in the great work of creating a new heart and a new spirit in the people. They must do nothing to disparage or hinder whatever is good in the existing order of society and government. Still less must they do anything to hinder their own pure testimony; either by seditious opposition to government, or by voluntary participation in its sins. They must not falsify their principles by going with the goverement *to do evil*, nor in

going against its wrongs by *anti-Christian means*, nor by contemning any thing in it which is right and good *per se*. This is the strait and narrow way of Christ.

When a considerable portion of the people have been enlightened and won over to Christian non-resistance, the tide of public sentiment will begin to set with such force against war, and the whole injury-inflicting system, that the less enlightened and less conscientious portion will insensibly yield to the current, and the relicts of barbarism, one after another, be "cast to the moles and bats." Thus, ultimately, government will be christianized, and the most scrupulous disciples of the non-resistant Saviour feel at liberty to perform any service in it which the public good may require.

What a work is to be performed! It has commenced, and will progress much faster than either faint-hearted friends or unbelieving scoffers anticipate; though doubtless its consummation is at a great distance. In this view of the case, how supremely silly would it appear for a handful of non-resistants to run a tilt of politics, and harness themselves to the car of Juggernaut, in the hope of influencing the besotted multitude to renounce their idolatry! It would be treason to their cause, and ridiculous infatuation, for them to play such antics. Their mission is to "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." To *teach*, not *number* the people. To show forth a model of what *ought to be*—not conform to what *is*. To testify against spiritual wickedness in high places, and to cause the popular abominations of the land to be properly appreciated and utterly loathed. To scatter light and call the people to repentance. To reform our thirty-thousand religious teachers, so that instead of patronizing, incul-

cating, apologizing for, consenting to, and pronouncing benedictions on military power and display, they may view and speak of it with the same abhorrence they now do *idol worship*. To convert our hundreds of thousands of church members to that primitive Christianity, which nerved up the ancient disciples to say, in the face of threatened death—"I am a Christian, and cannot fight!" When we have done all this, we will begin to think about voting and accepting office in the government. We believe we shall then no longer be obliged to subscribe Constitutions which make our governors and presidents "*commanders-in-chief of the army*," or which invest Congress with discretionary power "to declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal"—those flagrant crimes against God and humanity. If we *should*, why then, we would still ply our axe to the root of the tree, and *non-participate* till a better day had dawned on the world. Such is the method by which true Christianity teaches its disciples to reform government. True, it is not according to "the wisdom of this world, which is foolishness with God;" but it is according to "the wisdom that cometh down from above, which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."—James 3: 17.

INJURIOUS FORCE NOT ESSENTIAL TO GOVERNMENT.

I shall now be told by the opposer, that I am a Utopian, a dreamer, a chimerist, to imagine any such thing as a government without a war-power in the last resort—without the power of deadly compulsion to suppress individual crime and mobocratic violence. That such a government would be a body without a soul—a house

without a foundation—a powerless non-resistant abstraction; a something which can never have existence on earth, at least so long as human imperfection remains. I know that this is the common opinion respecting government. But it is false, the spawn of ignorance—a sheer delusion. A little reflection will show how utterly groundless it is. It derives all its plausibility from the exhibitions of past and remaining barbarism. Because men have been barbarous, and their laws and penalties barbarous, it is taken for granted that they *cannot* be otherwise; just as the African, in the centre of the torrid zone, assumed that there could be no such thing as ice because he had never seen any; and just as all your ignorant people assume that nothing can exist unlike what has come under their own observation.

Suppose one should confidently assert that there could be no such thing as a man, actually living and transacting business among mankind, without a military chapeau on his head, a sword dangling by his side, or a musket over his shoulder, or at least pistols or bowie knife about his person. That no man could live in the world without either *actually* fighting, or *threatening* to fight, or at least *being armed* for a fight. Who would not see the absurdity of the assertion? The man and the man's means of preserving his life, do not necessarily belong together. The Christian non-resistant is as much of a man as your sword and dagger character, and much less a *brute*, And the former stands a much better chance of long life. civil treatment and substantial happiness in the world, than the latter. Suppose some one should assert that there could be no such thing as a family, or good family government, without guns and dogs to defend them against marauders, and plenty of *switch-sticks* to wear up

over the children's backs. Would it show any thing more than the ignorance and low moral development of the asserter? Suppose another should affirm that there can be no such thing as a church of Christ, without the *Inquisition* and *auto da fe?* Men of intelligence, reflection and Christianized moral feeling, know the contrary.

UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES THE COUNTRY MIGHT HAVE A NON-RESISTANT GOVERNMENT.

Let us have two-thirds of the people of the United States, (including that portion who *are*, or would be *thought* Christians, philanthropists, people of intelligence and orderly citizens) once firmly committed to non-resistance, as explained and illustrated in this work, with even a large share of imperfection still lingering about them, and the government might triumphantly dispense with its army, navy, militia, capital punishment, and all manner of *injurious* inflictions. Under the light necessary to effect so general a change of public sentiment, a considerable portion of the people would have reconstructed neighborhood society by voluntary association, in such a manner as nearly to do away intemperance, idleness, debauchery, miseducation, poverty and brutality, and to insure the requisite inducements, means and opportunities for great self-improvement and social usefulness. The consequence would be, that very few poor creatures would remain without a strong moral guardianship of wise and true friends to look after their welfare. Wholesome cure would be applied with vast success to the ignorant and vicious, and at the same time powerful preventives beyond estimation applied to the new-born generation. Under such circumstances, suppose a truly Christian government to administer the

general affairs of the several states, and of the nation. How little would they have to do, how well might they perform that little, and how trifling would be the burthens of it either to officers or people? It would hardly require *thirty millions* of dollars to carry such a government through a single year. They would not expend eighty per cent. of all their receipts on ships of war, forts, arsenals, troops, &c. &c. If they expended half this sum on the reformation of the few remaining vicious, the right education of youth, and the encouragement of virtue among the whole people, their work would be cut short in righteousness. If here and there a disorderly individual broke over the bounds of decency, the whole force of renovated public sentiment would surround and press in upon him like the waters of the ocean, and slight *uninjurious* force would prevent personal outrage in the most extreme cases. And every day the causes of such extreme cases would be undergoing the process of annihilation. Meantime England, and the other great nations, between whom and ourselves there is such a frequent and increasing familiarity of intercourse, would vie with ours, not which should have the strongest army and navy, and be able to do the most mischief, but which should lead off in the glorious work of reforming, improving and blessing the human race. Patriotism would then no longer strut in regimentals, recount its ruffian exploits, and provoke quarrels with fellow men for the crime of having been born over sea, or on the other side of a mountain or river. It would glory in superior justice, forbearance, meekness, forgiveness—*charity*. O glorious era, I see thee coming to smile on my country and the world. Thou art advancing in silent majesty on the remote verge of the blue horizon. Clouds of dust

intervene between thee and the uncouth present. They conceal thee from the gaze of the boisterous and bustling multitude. The prophets even can but dimly discern thy beautiful outline. But thou art drawing nearer. Angels are thy heralds. The morning stars are singing together in thy train, and the sons of God shout for joy. In due time the heaven shall kiss the earth in thy presence, and the earth shall be restored to the bliss of heaven!

VIEW OF PRESENT ORDER OF THINGS, AND REMEDIES.

But we must turn back from this vision, and listen again to the scoffs of skepticism, the growls of frowning bigotry, and the jargon of Babylon the great. We must hear those who make the sword, the gibbet, and the dungeon their gods, denounce the doctrines of mercy, and extol the efficacy of cruelty. "The world is full of criminals," say they, "horrid criminals, ravening like wolves for the prey, and it is presumption to think of trusting to love, mercy, forbearance and uninjurious restraints. The wicked must be slain. The unprincipled must be threatened with destruction. The lawless must be held at bay by the terrors of the halter and the cell. Mankind are too depraved to be held and treated as brethren." This is the language of our professedly wise and upright men, in what are falsely supposed to be the first ranks of society. But it is the language of men who need to be born again before they can enter into the kingdom of God,—Pharisees and Sadducees, haughty religionists and moralists, who know not their own hearts, nor "what manner of spirit they are of." They look not into the causes of crime. They feel not for their fellow creatures, who were born and have lived under the worst possible circumstances. They see not that nine-tenths of the crimes of those

whom they glory in bringing to punishment, might have been prevented, had good people, so called, been *good enough* to care for others beyond the precincts of their own blood relationship. They themselves are great sinners, and need great mercy; yet they have little compassion on their fellow sinners of a lower grade. They live in a sort of conventional decency, and imagine it to be true morality. They are clothed with the fashionable garments of a superfine selfishness, and vainly imagine themselves acceptable to God. They are supremely covetous of this world's goods, and revel in the midst of extravagance, yet think only of the guilt and deserved punishment of *thieves* and *robbers*. Let them spare their maledictions against the punishable class of their fellow creatures. Let each one of them seriously ask the following questions:

"How much better am I by nature than these murderers, robbers, thieves, and wretched culprits, whom I so much detest? Had I been born of their parents, been brought up as they were brought up, been neglected by the better classes as they were neglected, been tempted as they have been tempted, and been treated as they have been treated, should I have been at this moment what I am? Should I not have been one among them, hated and hunted down as a hopeless reprobate? How much attention have I given, in my whole life, to the consideration of the causes which make one person to differ from another? How much time have I spent in earnest endeavors to prevent my fellow-creatures from falling into these crimes, in educating them while children, providing them a good home of industry and comfort in youth, and in inducing them in mature age to lead orderly lives? How much *thought*, how much *affection*, how much *time*,

how much of my *money*, have I devoted to such purposes? Have I considered these things; have I brought up my family to consider them? Have I proposed them to my neighbors? Have I brought them before my religious or literary associates? Have I tried by precept, persuasion and example to unite my friends in preventing pauperism, vice and crime? Or have I thought chiefly of deterring and punishing crime? Have I been spending nearly all my attention and efforts on *myself* and my own family, to obtain wealth, distinction, fame, self-aggrandizement and self-indulgence? Have I not been living all this time to *myself*, and for my own little circle of relations and friends? What has my religion done towards making me a Christian after the pattern of Jesus? What has my morality amounted to but worldly decency? And have I not done some things, in secret in spite of all my religion and morality, which if known to the world would plunge me into the depths of disgrace? What have I to boast of? Why am I so intent on punishing instead of forgiving and reforming my less fortunate fellow sinners!" Would not such a self examination as this, essentially humble and chasten many a self-righteous soul?

The truth is, if one-hundredth part of what the better classes of society now acquire contrary to the law of love, and expend on themselves to their positive *hurt*, were faithfully devoted to the prevention and reformation of crime, scarce an offender would remain in society. If no more than what is expended in detecting, trying and punishing criminals, were judiciously applied to this work of prevention and reformation, it would accomplish ten times more for society than it now does. But alas, as *undertakers* live and flourish by burying the dead, so

there are not a few in the present organization of society who live by hunting and punishing criminals. And yet many of the worst offenders luxuriate in perfect impunity, fortified by bulwarks impregnable to the penal laws. At the same time the ordinary acquisition of property, by what are called the better classes, the criers out for "punishment, punishment," is only a fashionable species of gambling and extortion, in which the cunning, the fortunate, and the unscrupulous carry off the stakes amid the perpetual grumblings of the unlucky losers. Besides this, intemperance and licentiousness are permitted to allure millions through their *licensed* portals to the chambers of hell; and slavery shakes her whips and chains over a sixth portion of a professedly free people, under the protection of our star-spangled banner! Is it any wonder that such a state of things, such a religion, such a morality, such unbridled acquisitiveness, such selfishness, and such oppression of the *governing portion*, should breed, foster and perpetuate all manner of vice and crime in the *under classes* of society? Not at all.

Therefore, Christian non-resistance protests against the wickedness of the *punishing*, as well as the *punished* classes. It proposes and insists on a radical reform. And when this reform shall have gone forward to a certain point, a government untainted by military power or penal injury will be both practicable and certain. To show that such a government is possible, I will now present a clear, discriminating, irrefutable extract from M. Guizot, prime minister of France.

EXTRACT FROM M. GUIZOT'S LECTURES.

"Is it not forming a gross and degrading idea of government to suppose that it resides *only*, to suppose that it

resides *chiefly*, in the force which it exercises to make itself obeyed in its coercive element?

"Let us quit religion, for a moment, and turn to civil government. Trace with me, I beseech you, the simple march of circumstances. Society exists. Something is to be done, no matter what, in its name and for its interest; a law has to be executed, some measure to be adopted, a judgment to be pronounced. Now, certainly, there is a proper method of supplying these social wants; there is a proper law to make, a proper measure to adopt, a proper judgment to pronounce. Whatever may be the matter in hand, whatever may be the interest in question, there is, upon every occasion, a truth which must be discovered, and which ought to decide the matter, and govern the conduct to be adopted.

"The first business of government is to seek this truth, is to discover what is just, reasonable, and suitable to society. When this is found, it is proclaimed: the next business is to introduce it to the public mind; to get it approved by the men upon whom it is to act; to persuade them that it is reasonable. In all this, is there anything coercive? Not at all. Suppose now that the truth which ought to decide upon the affair, (no matter what;) suppose, I say, that the truth being found and proclaimed, all understandings should be at once convinced; all wills at once determined; that all should acknowledge that the government was right, and obey it spontaneously. There is nothing yet of compulsion, no occasion for the employment of force. Does it follow, then, that a government does not exist? Is there nothing of government in all this? To be sure there is, and it has accomplished its task. Compulsion appears not till the resistance of individuals calls for it—till the idea, the decision which

authority has adopted, fails to obtain the approbation or the voluntary submission of all. Then government employs force to make itself obeyed. This is a necessary *consequence* of human imperfection; an imperfection which resides as well in power as in society. There is no way of entirely avoiding this; civil governments will always be obliged to have recourse, in a certain degree, to compulsion. Still it is evident they are not made up of compulsion, because, whenever they can, they are glad to do without it, to the great blessing of all; and their highest point of perfection is to be able to discard it, and trust to means purely moral, to their influence upon the understanding: so that, in proportion as government can dispense with compulsion and force, the more faithful it is in its true nature, and the better it fulfils the purpose for which it is sent. This is not to shrink, this is not to give way, as people commonly cry out; it is merely acting in a different manner, in a manner more general and powerful. Those governments which employ the most compulsion perform much less than those which scarcely ever have recourse to it. Government, by addressing itself to the understanding, by engaging the free will of its subjects, by acting by means purely intellectual, instead of contracting, expands and elevates itself; it is then that it accomplishes most, and attains to the greatest objects. On the contrary, it is when a government is obliged to be constantly employing its physical arm, that it becomes weak and restrained—that it does little, and does that little badly.

"The essence of government then by no means resides in compulsion, in the exercise of brute force; it consists more especially of a system of means and powers, conceived for the purpose of discovering upon all occasions

what is best to be done, for the purpose of discovering the truth which by right ought to govern society, for the purpose of persuading all men to acknowledge this truth, to adopt and respect it willingly and freely. Thus I think I have shown that the necessity for, and the existence of a government, are very conceivable, even though there should be no room for compulsion, even though it should be absolutely forbidden."—*History of Civilization in Europe, Lecture* 5.

CONCLUSION.

Is this satisfactory? Is this conclusive? It ought to be so. It is not the language of a non-resistant enthusiast—a Utopian dreamer,—but of Monsieur Guizot, the intelligent and accomplished prime minister of Louis Phillipe. Let the arrogant contemners of the idea of a pure Christian government revolve the matter, and consider whether their skepticism arises out of knowledge, or *ignorance?* To a sound mind the case admits of little doubt. The great prerequisite to the establishment of such a government has already been pointed out. It is religious, moral and intellectual reform among the people, superinducing in them a more Christian faith, a more Christian conscience, a more enlightened intellect, and a purer morality. This noble work non-resistance espouses, and will unfalteringly prosecute to its blessed consummation. To carry it forward the faithful will lay aside, pecuniary, political, military, and all worldly ambition—every weight that encumbers—and press forward to the mark for the prize of their high calling in Christ Jesus; despising the cross and enduring the shame, till they enter into his glory and partake of the true majesty of his kingdom. He is King of kings, and Lord of lords; and the kingdoms of

this world shall at length become his in *righteousness and peace.*

"I've thought at gentle and ungentle hour,
Of many an act and giant shape of power;
* * * * Of bruised rights, and flourishing bad men,
And virtue wasting heavenwards from a den:
Brute force, and fury, and the devilish drouth
Of the foul cannon's ever gaping mouth;
And the bride-widowing sword; and the harsh bray
The sneering trumpet sends across the fray;
And all which blights the people-thinning star
That selfishness invokes—the horsed war,
Panting along with many a bloody mane:
I've thought of all this pride, and all this pain,
And all the insolent plenitudes of power;
And I declare by this most quiet hour,
* * * that power itself has not one half the might
Of *Gentleness.* 'Tis want to all true wealth;
The uneasy madman's force to the wise health;
Blind downward beating, to the eyes that see;
Noise to persuasion, doubt to certainty;
The consciousness of strength in enemies,
Who must be strained upon, or else they rise;
* * * Or as all shrieks and clangs, with which a sphere
Undone and fired, could rake the midnight ear,
Compared with that vast dumbness nature keeps
Throughout her starry deeps,
Most old, and mild, and awful, and unbroken,
Which tells a tale of Peace beyond whate'er was spoken."

Leigh Hunt.

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